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Review

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Camille Paglia on the First Lady



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Phasing of teachers' award planned □ Labour wins Hemsworth poll

Tories to sidestep pay row

NHS unions join call for 'justice'

Donald MacLeod and Michael White

THE Government is poised to buy itself electoral time and avert a fresh rebellion among parents over class sizes by phasing the teachers' pay award into next year — in the knowledge that a new Labour government may be left to clean up the public sector pay mess in 1997.

The ploy emerged last night as John Major and Tony Blair engaged in sharp exchanges over the disclosure that senior managers of hospital trusts saw their pay rise by an average 7.6 per cent against 3.2 per cent received by nurses. Continuing controversy over MPs' pay fuelled the row.

Last night's anger spread right across the public sector pay front, with health and education under the spotlight. Councils which have budgeted for a maximum of 3.2 per cent pay increase for teachers were alarmed by suggestions yesterday that their pay review body may propose 3.8 per cent — reports which the Treasury warily described as "speculative".

In a tight budgetary year even the lower figure is too high for some authorities. But phasing an award over 18 months — or "end-loading" it with part of the rise paid in April and part next January — would bring the annual cost below 3 per cent which many would find manageable.

By using that device to slash an estimated £100 million off this year's predicted pay bill for teachers in England and Wales ministers would ease the pressure on local authorities and enable most schools to hold the line on class sizes even if they could not reduce them.

It would defuse the threat of parents' protests in the run-up to the May council elections and the general election. But it would land the next government with a serious problem in 1997 when the extra cost became due.

The decision could increase the likelihood of an early election, which was again reflected in a noisy Prime Minister's question time when Mr Blair accused ministers of putting "bureaucrats, administrators, company cars and pen pushers" in the NHS before doctors, nurses, patients and extra beds.

He demanded that they

should all get similar treatment in future. Administrative costs had risen by more than \$1 billion since the health service changes of 1990, he said.

Health unions also joined the row demanding justice for their members and enough extra cash to keep and attract staff.

Mr Major pledged his support for fairness over pay but accused his rival of asking "senseless" questions. Even Margaret Beckett, Labour's former health spokeswoman before Harriet Harman, had admitted that the NHS was "under-managed" in the past, he told cheering Tory MPs.

The row immediately became entwined in the controversy over MPs' £34,086 a year pay which some backbenchers want to see doubled to catch up with comparable professional groups — to the anger of public sector unions and poverty campaigners.

It became clear yesterday that the Cabinet hopes to pass the hot potato to the Senior Salaries Review Body — which deals with judges, senior military ranks and higher civil servants — rather than to the Nolan committee as proposed in a Commons motion signed by nearly half the 651 MPs.

Challenged by Labour's Aik Morris, Mr Major said that "there needs to be a new mechanism" for members' pay which ministers had been considering for some time before the latest backbench campaign.

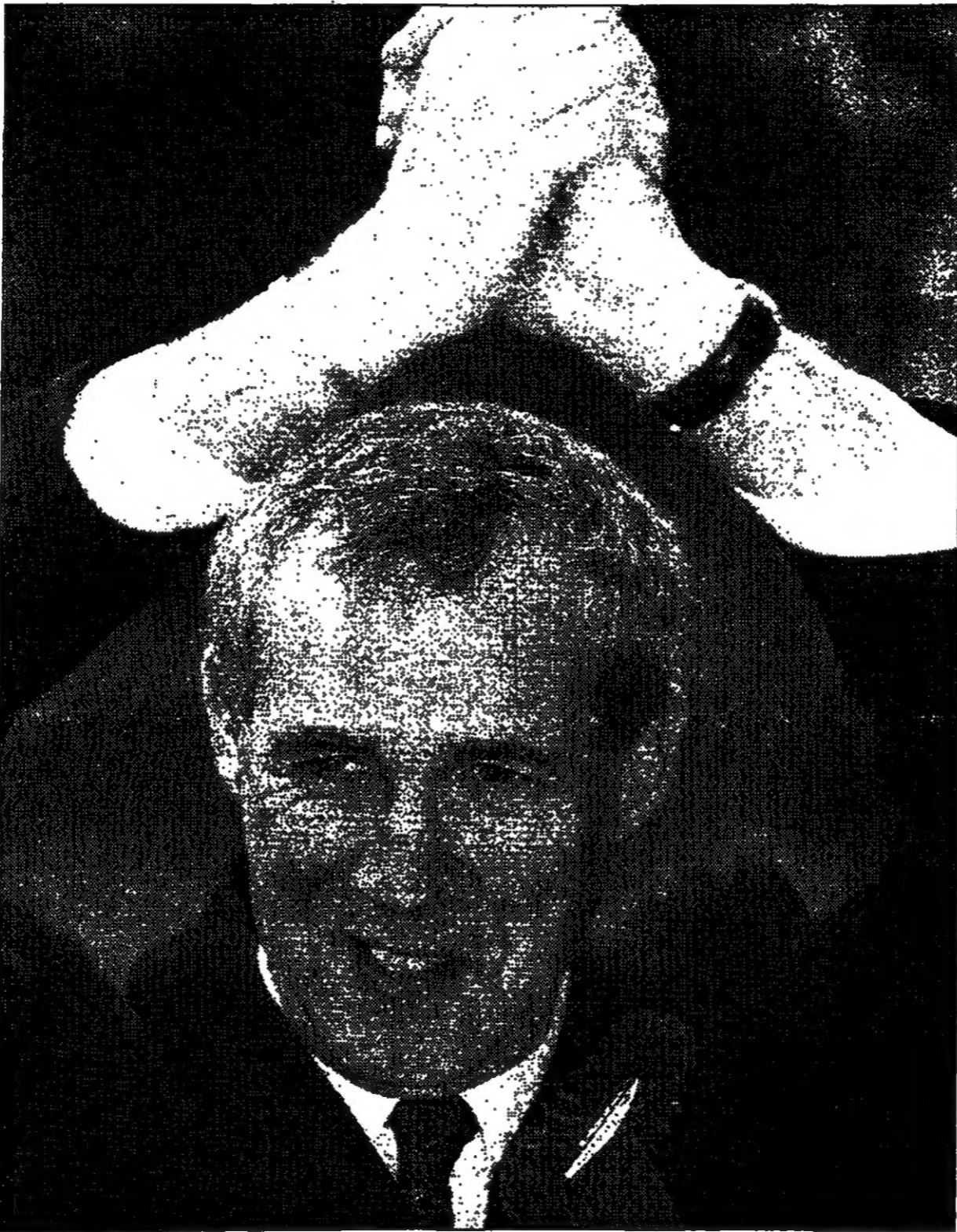
The timetable emerging looks like providing MPs with a pay rise in two phases, on January 1, 1997, and probably after the general election. The package is unlikely to double their pay, but less eye-catching changes to pensions and expenses could yield gains.

A statement is expected next week after agreement has been reached with the Opposition.

Yesterday's alarm among local authorities arose over a leak to the Financial Times suggesting that junior doctors and nurses can expect about a 4 per cent, dentists slightly more and teachers about 3.8 per cent.

Though officially unconfirmed the leak has also thrown pay talks between local authorities and public sector unions into disarray. The unions had already rejected 2.4 per cent but the employers were hoping to settle at around the rate of inflation, currently 3.2 per cent.

Troicallly, market forces



John Trickett, Labour's man of the moment in Hemsworth, was backed by the big guns

have played a part. John Gardner, chairman of the teachers pay review body, has been given evidence of a looming teacher shortage if recruitment and retention are not addressed. He is understood to have opted for a high figure.

Any decision to phase the pay award would anger teachers and headteachers yesterday told Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, that refusal to implement the recommendations in full would send the wrong message to teachers.

But ministers calculate that a row with the unions or even industrial action in schools would not necessarily damage the Conservatives and would be more embarrassing to new

Labour. It is the alliance between teachers and parents which has caused them alarm and contributed to heavy losses in local authority elections.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said the £276 million extra promised for education in the Budget settlement was a sleight of hand.

"If the Government accepts the proposed award they have an obligation to ensure that our children are not expected to pay its cost through increased class sizes," said Mr Blunkett.

Sketch, page 2; Pay row, page 5; Letters, page 8; Leader's comment by Peter Preston, page 9

Major will not face autumn challenge

Patrick Wintour and Martin Walwright

JOHN MAJOR was freed yesterday from any lingering speculation of a direct challenge to his leadership before the next election when the Tory backbench 1922 Committee agreed to ban any such challenge.

The vote of confidence in Mr Major, after a fortnight of restored Tory morale at Westminster, came as Tony Blair, the Labour leader, launched a ferocious assault on the night-mare of a fifth Tory term.

He claimed that the real hypocrite in British politics was not Harriet Harman, but a Tory government that said one thing before an election and did another afterwards.

Confronting the aggressive new Tory tactics head-on, he conjured up a vision of Britain with classrooms of 100, VAT on children's clothes and citizens protected by private security guards.

The Conservative chairman, Brian Mawhinney, described Mr Blair's speech as hysterical and a clear sign that he was buckling under the pressure.

Mr Blair's attack coincided with Labour's victory celebrations over the Hemsworth by-election, an expected result which cut the overall government majority in the Commons to four.

Labour sources said they were delighted at the news that Mr Major was now almost certain to be Mr Blair's challenger in the general election next year.

Explaining the backbench decision to suspend the rules allowing a leadership election every autumn, Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee, said: "At the moment a review of the rules is taking place but, because of



the consultations necessary, this would take a considerable amount of time.

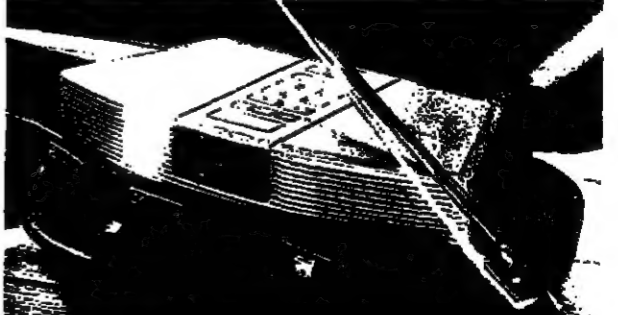
"The uncertainty involved was not acceptable, hence the executive and the full committee have taken this particular course of action."

The rules of party leadership elections were revised after Margaret Thatcher was ousted, to require 10 per cent of Tory MPs to back a challenge before a contest could be called.

Last night's suspension of the rules, which Downing Street had been privately pressing for, does not rule out the possibility that disastrous local elections in May could see party grandees directing Mr Major to stand down in the interests of the party.

Most observers have long regarded resignation, rather than defeat by a challenger such as John Redwood this autumn, as the only realistic means of removing Mr Major before a general election.

The shoring up of Mr Major's position did not prevent Mr Blair from accusing him of, in effect, mounding his entire election strategy on the turn to page 2, column 3



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Student left standing as armed raider escapes on crutches

THIEF who robbed a student at gunpoint was being hunted by police in Liverpool yesterday after making his getaway on crutches. It is the city's second robbery by a gunman on crutches in the last few weeks.

Hospital accident records are expected to be checked in an attempt to catch the thieves.

The student, who has digs in Toxteth, went out at about 2.45am to get money from a cashpoint near the city's Anglican cathedral. But after collecting the money he was confronted by the robber leaning on crutches and brandishing a handgun and was forced to hand over his cash. The gunman then hobbled away

towards the city's university campus.

Police declined to say how much was stolen but disclosed that it was a small sum.

The student, believed to be from Saudi Arabia, was shocked but not physically injured.

Detective Chief Inspector Frank Thompson, who is leading the hunt for the gunman, said: "He did not have a leg in plaster and there was no other sign of any injury to his legs so there is a possibility that he was using the crutches as a pose, pretending to be disabled."

The first theft by a raider on crutches took place several weeks ago in the same area, when a man was threatened and robbed in the street. Police have appealed for witnesses.

Russian miners turn on Yeltsin

James Mack in Moscow

RUSSIA'S coal miners, the underground army which came up to the light to back Boris Yeltsin in his struggle for power seven years ago, turned bitterly against their former hero yesterday as hundreds of thousands walked out on strike.

Their basic demand was simple: they want to be paid. Some have received no wages for eight months. "Where is our money?" asked one banner in the Arctic coal city of Vorkuta.

The stoppage was an unpleasant 66th birthday gift for President Yeltsin, who rode to power against Mikhail Gorbachev partly on the crest of the 1989 and 1991 waves of miners' strikes.

One of the most solid strike areas yesterday was the Kuz

bass coalfield in central Siberia — five years ago, one of the most passionately pro-Yeltsin regions. Today the Kuzbass miners' political hope is vested in Aman Tuleyev — a leading member of Geranady Zyuganov's revivified communist party.

Coal union leader Vitaly Budko said half a million mine workers had downed tools, far more than expected.

The state coal monopoly, Rosugol, gave a figure of 300,000, with 118 out of 182 pits and 27 out of 83 open-cast mines shut down. Other mines were refusing to load coal for shipping.

Russia's huge metallurgical industry depends on coal. But first to suffer will be the power stations, with the end of winter two months away.

Many miners face a tough choice between striking in the hope of being paid and

keeping their local power stations supplied.

On Sakhalin island near Japan, coal shortages were said to have forced power cuts and reductions in energy output. A Rosugol spokesman said Rostov region's power plants had only a few days' coal reserves left and power cuts would begin next week if the miners did not go back.

Rosugol partly blames the power companies themselves, which owe hundreds of millions of pounds for coal as part of the nightmarish circle of debts which afflicts the country. But the government is the biggest debtor and the source of most of the problem.

Last week miners tried to persuade Moscow to pay the \$150 million in back wages the union says it owes. Disgusted by what they saw as more vague promises, they resolved to strike. The gov-

ernment gives a lower figure of about \$85 million. Alexander Livanov, Mr Yeltsin's chief economic aide, said yesterday that this money had been transferred to Rosugol.

The president has said he wants all debts to state workers paid. Teachers are also on strike across Russia this week. But the Russian leader is caught between the approaching presidential elections and the negotiations with the IMF for a \$8 billion loan.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainian miners began an indefinite strike yesterday in the accident-prone Donbass coalfield, with the same demand to be paid overdue wages.

The government said it would pay up eventually but would not bow to pressure. Ukraine's president, Leonid Kuchma, is further from elections than his Russian counterpart, and closer to spring.

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Sketch

Getting drunk on their own hiccups



Simon Hoggart

SITTING in the House of Commons these days is a bit like riding in a train compartment suddenly invaded by football fans. They mean no harm but are loud and boisterous and, as you bury yourself deeper in your paper, you hope they don't decide to take an interest in your affairs.

erected a lamppost, and like so many drinks they had walked straight into it. "Those were the words of Margaret Beckett!" Mr Major announced triumphantly. Moments later Mr Blair made some other point which was received with groans by the Tories.

Patrick Wintour and David Sharrock

THE Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, was reluctantly edging last night towards acceptance of the British government's call for elections to a Northern Ireland body, but only if the Unionists give guarantees that they will not put up further blocks to all-party talks.

Mourners and riot police clash as republican's funeral ends in stand-off



Mr Gallagher's coffin was carried from the family home in Poleglass, west Belfast, flanked by men wearing black berets, sunglasses and dark scarves around their faces (above).

First night

Chip off the old musical block

Richard Williams

NO DOUBT Charles Ives would have been celebrating the weekend festival of his marvellous and under-performed music held at the Barbican last month; but he would have been astonished and delighted by what happened to four of his pieces at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

ing figure who invented what many regard as the most celebrated orchestral effects when he persuaded a couple of brass bands to march towards and past each other in the square of his home town while playing different pieces of music.

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

continued from page 1 back of the schooling of the 11-year-old child of a Labour MP.

The Hensworth by-election in a strong West Yorkshire mining community had been caused by the death of the Labour MP Derek Ewright, but most interest in the campaign had been created by the intervention of the Socialist Labour Party, largely founded by the miners' leader, Arthur Scargill.

S Africa seeks return of old heads

DAVID BERESFORD in Johannesburg

ing a focus on the remains of indigenous people held in Europe as souvenirs and museum exhibits.

back room by a Cape Town artist, Pippa Skotnes, while researching a book and preparing an exhibition on the history and culture of the Khoisan people — popularly known as "Bushmen".

question of human remains in museums," she said. "But we anticipate a groundswell of demands around the issue."

Psychologists aid undercover police suffering stress

Duncan Campbell

UNDERCOVER police are shortly to see psychologists because of the pressures of the double life they lead, according to the officer who runs undercover policing at the Metropolitan police.

says Detective Chief Inspector Peter North, head of the undercover policing section of the Crime Operations Unit (formerly SO10).

Major escapes leadership challenge before election

Confronting the repeated Tory attacks on Ms Harman, her choice of a selective school for her child, he said: "It was not an 11-year-old boy that had cost people their jobs, their homes and their businesses. It was not an 11-year-old boy who had raised taxes — it was a 17-year-old government."

Mr Blair, speaking to party members in West London in advance of a Shadow Cabinet strategy meeting today, accused the Tories of demagoguing the name of government. Using the kind of campaign message of fear that has worked successfully for the Tories in previous general elections, Mr Blair warned that "Britain is not safe with the Tories".

Advertisement for 'GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG' by Wagner at The Royal Opera. The text includes 'Nothing but a triumph' and 'CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Firemen and boy, 5, die in house blaze

Geoffrey Gibbs

INVESTIGATORS were sifting through the wreckage of a house in a Welsh village yesterday to discover the cause of a fire that claimed the lives of two part-time firemen and a five-year-old boy they tried to save.

The two men, members of the team of about a dozen retained firefighters in Blaenau Gwent, were killed when they went back into the blazing building after neighbours mistakenly reported that a second child was trapped inside. The boy they had earlier rescued from the upstairs of the terraced house died from the effects of smoke inhalation on his way to hospital.

The men who died were Stephen Griffin, aged 32, and Kevin Lane, aged 32. Both were from Blaenau and had children.

Gwent Chief Fire Officer Terry Glossop said the two men knew of the conditions when they went back to look for the second child but had not hesitated.

"Tragically, there was no one else in the house but these two colleagues did not think for one minute of their own safety. They were doing what they joined the service to do — to save life.

They were still wearing breathing apparatus and when they reached the head of the stairs there was a tremendous explosion. They were caught in it and unfortunately they did not survive."

Witnesses said thick smoke was pouring out of the house when fire-fighters were called at six o'clock yesterday morning.

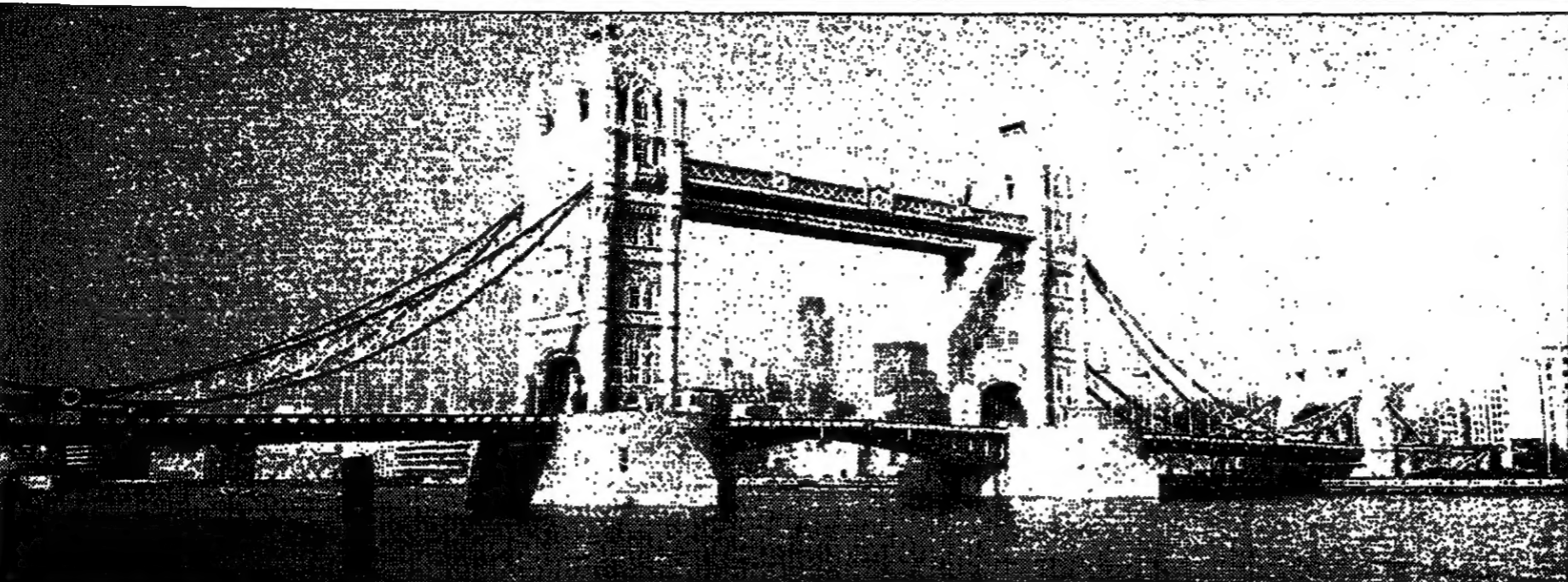
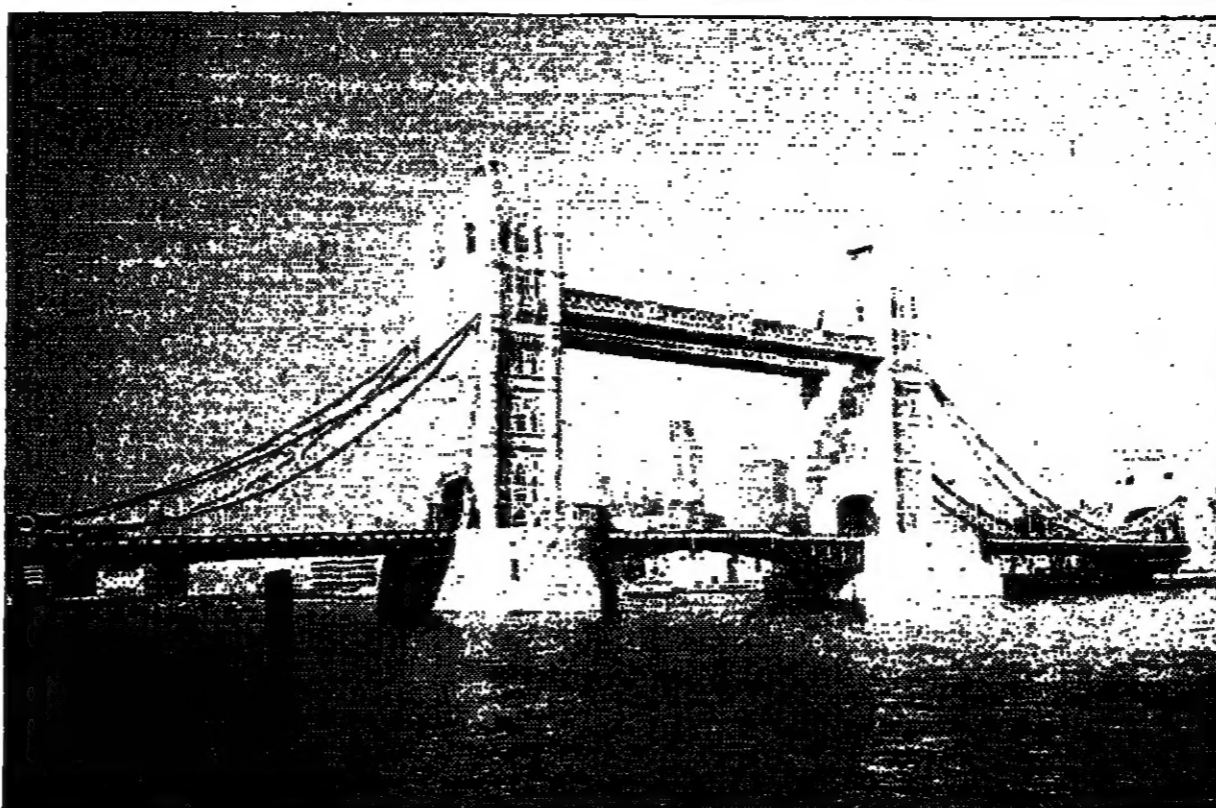
Daniel Harford died shortly after being brought out of the house. His mother Catherine, aged 25, and her younger son Joshua, aged 3, who had earlier managed to escape, were being comforted by relatives last night.

The deaths stunned the former mining village, where flings were flying at half past yesterday. Businesses in the nearby town of Abertillery have started a collection to help to buy essential items for the bereaved mother.

Air Glossop said the fire service was "devastated, shocked and saddened" at the loss of two respected and well-liked colleagues.

According to Fire Brigades Union records, yesterday's disaster brings to 29 the number of firefighters who have died on duty since 1990.

There are 14,782 retained firefighters in England and Wales, paid an annual retainer of £1,500 with extra payments when called out.



At first touch, Kodak's APS cameras (top left) feel very like their compact 35mm rivals. After a few minutes their smaller size and lighter weight become apparent, writes Nicholas Bannister.

They live up to their simple point-and-shoot goal, and there is no doubt that putting a new film in is a much shorter task than with a 35mm camera. But by far the most interesting feature is the ability to switch

between three different shapes for pictures. When I chose, for example, the panoramic shape (above) the image in the viewfinder was cropped accordingly. There was no need to look for faint lines

indicating the picture shape, and it added a new dimension to picture composition. I took the standard shape photograph (top right) from the same viewpoint.

Whether APS lives up to the hype depends on how difficult people find loading their existing cameras. If you are reasonably competent, there is no great advantage justifying paying over the odds.

The real advantages are likely to come in later models with features such as the ability to spell out very specific captions. But some, such as the ability to record short sound-bites, are probably little more than a marketing gimmick.

Kodak launches the Box Brownie of the 21st century

Nicholas Bannister Technology Editor

THE photographic industry has got together in a last attempt to launch a new film format before customers abandon traditional cameras in favour of video or digital versions.

The Advanced Photo System, launched yesterday, was developed by Kodak, Nikon, Canon, Minolta and Fuji, but more than 90 per cent of the industry has already li-

cented the technology, which is based upon a 24mm film.

The aim is to create smaller, foolproof compact cameras with more features than on the 35mm cameras which currently dominate the market.

Kodak, the driving force behind the new system, unveiled the first APS camera yesterday — 96 years to the day after George Eastman started the era of mass consumer photography with the launch of the Brownie. The industry hopes that APS, which involves new cameras,

films and processing equipment, will put new life into a stagnant photographic market.

A transparent magnetic strip running the length of the film stores information about each shot, some of which will be used to improve calculations automatically made by processing equipment. The more expensive models will store captions.

The APS system has been designed so that users never see the negatives. Research showed that problems with

loading films resulted in about 16 million ruined photographs a year in Britain. The APS film is pushed out of the cassette and fed across the frame after the cassette has been dropped into the camera. The negatives are returned within the original film cassette, and an index print shows the number of each picture.

APS camera owners can select any one of three different picture proportions ranging from panoramic to standard. Top of the range models

will automatically return a partially used film to the first unused frame, allowing photographers to switch film types mid-film.

Kodak has developed eight types of APS camera, of which four, costing between

£80 and £170, will be available in Britain from April. A spokesman said Kodak's APS cameras would cost up to 30 per cent more than 35mm equivalents, with film up to 20 per cent more expensive. Processing would also cost more.

Tesco chain shuts up shop to Buy None Get 189 Free thief

Alex Bollos

BRITAIN'S most prolific shoplifter — who once stole 189 bottles of drink from a single store in a few hours — was banned yesterday from all Tesco supermarkets. A resigned Jim Heritage, aged 37, said after the High Court hearing in London: "Where can I go now? Shoplifting is the one thing I know."

The divorced father-of-two from Coventry, who was barred in 1984 from the Sainsbury's chain and is not allowed in his local shops, has been imprisoned 10 times in 22 years for stealing bottles of spirits, which he then sells.

Tesco had tried to get Heritage on its side two years ago by paying him to advise security staff. But he carried on shoplifting regardless.

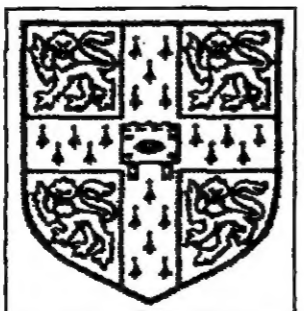
Heritage, who is unemployed and was represented at yesterday's brief hearing by the Citizens Advice Bureau, consented to the injunction. He said there was no point challenging the supermarket chain. Afterwards he said he would try and give up again as he wanted to avoid adding to the five years he has spent in jail. He has been prosecuted 40 times but claims to have got away with countless more than this.

He said: "I know every individual suffers from it through their pocket but, in my eyes, I'm not hurting anyone individually. Boredom starts it off but then adrenalin keeps me going. Adrenalin is the worst drug in the world."

A Tesco spokesman said: "At the end of the day we have no other way of protecting our property. Stealing is stealing."

Academic uproar at banned book

Leonard Doyle on an anthropological study that a university fears puts its staff in danger



Cambridge University Press: could lose authors to US



Series founder Jack Goody: signalled intention to resign

CAMBRIDGE University Press is refusing to publish an important new work on Greek anthropology following advice from the security services and the Foreign Office that publication could provoke a terrorist attack against Cambridge University staff in Greece.

The decision has provoked outrage and incredulity in academic circles and is expected to have wider repercussions for the CUP's reputation as an academic publisher. The editorial board for the CUP's anthropology series has resigned in protest and leading academics are warning that the Press's 40-year history of publishing important works of this kind could end if authors turn instead to US publishers.

The book, entitled *Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood*, deals with the thorny issue of Macedonian identity. It is an ethnographic study of villages in northern Greece which contradicts the official line that there is no Slavo-Macedonian minority in Greece.

In tendering his resignation, Michael Herzfeld, the British-born professor of anthropology at Harvard University, said censoring the

book "represents an unacceptable restriction of academic freedom", which would damage the Press's reputation and "encourage irresponsible individuals to threaten the safety of scholars".

The decision to pull the book at the last minute followed an extraordinary request by senior officials at the CUP in Cambridge for a "terrorist threat assessment" by officials at the British embassy in Athens and from its chief salesman in Greece, Craig Walker. No Greeks were consulted, nor were the views of the British or US academic experts canvassed. The CUP's actions are also understood to have been motivated by fears of a boycott affecting a lucrative market for its books and revenue from setting some 300,000 English exams in Greece every year.

Anthony Wilson, chief executive of Cambridge University Press, has confirmed that a decision was made not to pub-

lish the book, but refused to explain on what grounds.

The Greek-born author, Anastasia Karakassidou, received death threats two years ago for publishing her research on the Slavic speakers of Greek Macedonia, raising issues central to Greece's dispute with the neighbouring former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Her researches revealed that there were villagers in northern Greece who speak a Slavic tongue and consider themselves culturally "Macedonians".

Internal Cambridge University Press documents obtained by the Guardian, reveal the Press was so concerned about the risk of "terrorist violence" that it felt there was a "moral imperative" not to publish. In a memorandum dated 12 January, a CUP executive, Jessica Kuper, stated that "it was impossible to discount the advice received from the British embassy in Athens" which

had "warned that publication might put at risk the lives of Press staff in Athens, and of Cambridge University personnel in Greece."

When a committee of senior Cambridge University academics (known as the Syndics) met on 1 December 1995 to decide what to do, they were told that MI6 was worried about the possible effects of publication on Greek public opinion and the consequent risks to British interests. They were reminded of a handful of attacks on British interests in Greece including the murder of a British Council official in 1985.

The Syndics saw copies of a letter from Britain's chargé d'affaires in Athens, Christopher Denne, in which he said reaction to publication could range from "public criticism, protests and demonstrations, or violence or threat of violence against the author or publishers". Mr Denne admitted no British official had read the manuscript.

The Foreign Office says it never advised the CUP not to publish but that "we were asked a difficult question and we gave an honest answer which we stand by."

After the decision not to publish, two senior members of the Press's editorial board, Prof Herzfeld and Professor Stephen Gudeman of the University of Minnesota, immediately resigned. While in the UK, Cambridge professor Jack Goody, the founder of the series, signalled his intention to quit if the decision was not rescinded.

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The smoothly efficient First Lady we see before us, with her chameleon-like blonde hairdos and charismatic smile, is actually a drag queen, the magnificent final product of a long process of self-transformation from butch to femme.

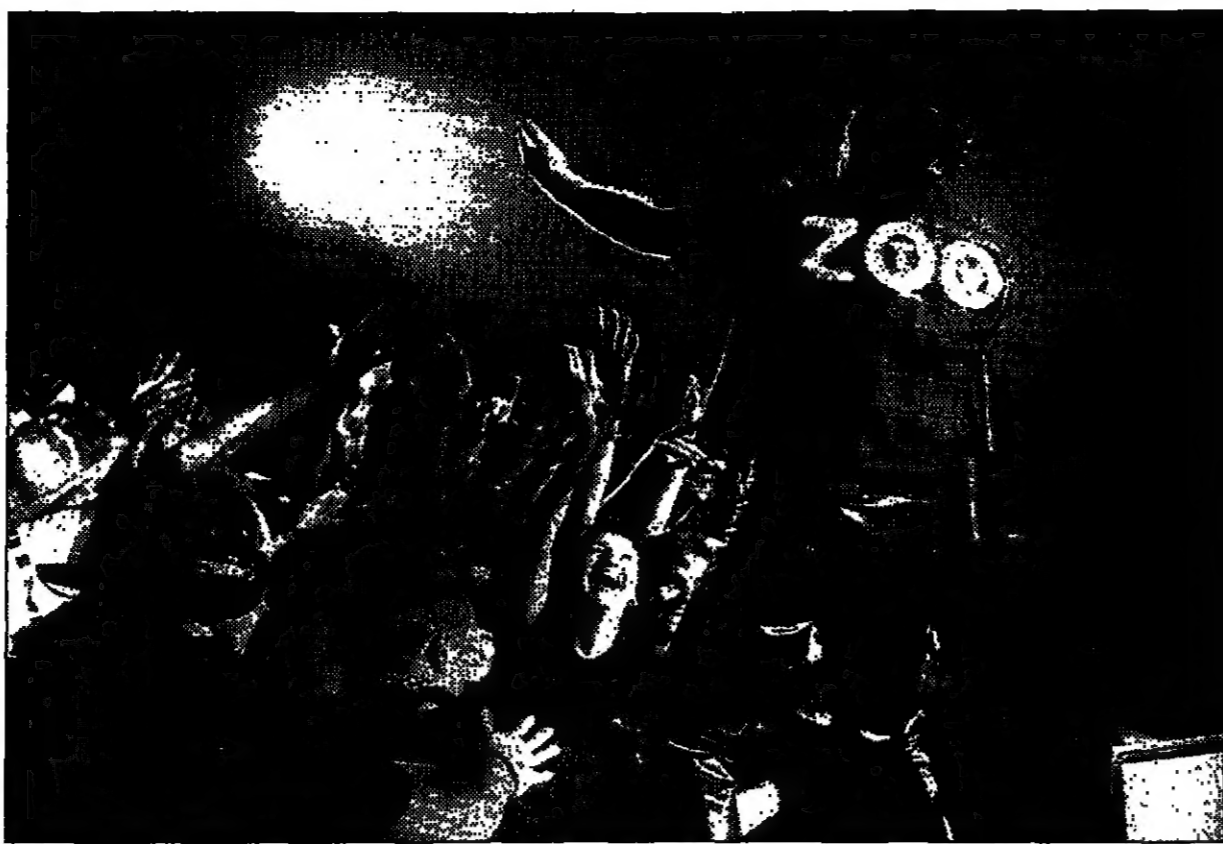
Carmille Paglia

Review cover story

Performing Right Society sharply criticised by monopolies commission over live performances, reports Sally Weale

Royalties 'opt-out' urged for pop stars

THE Performing Right Society, which collects and distributes royalties worth £170 million every year on behalf of 25,000 British composers and songwriters, was yesterday heavily criticised in a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report which highlighted a catalogue of inefficiencies and inadequacies. The society, which represents composers and music publishers from stars like Paul McCartney to little-known folk song writers and jazz musicians, is being asked to comply with 44 recommendations — far more than in the average commission report. In particular, it urges the society to allow members to administer their own rights in respect of live performances. This could see big name acts opting out to look after their own royalties, taking huge sums of money with them, and challenging the society's exclusive position. Members of the Irish rock



Discord... Bono (left), of U2, which is fighting the PRS, and Paul McCartney, whose fortune is almost all based on royalties



PHOTOGRAPHS: SAMMON MCCABE (main picture) and ROBIN MAYES

band U2 are pursuing a High Court action on this theme, and claim that if they controlled the rights to live performances of their songs they could make more money and get paid more quickly than under the current arrangement. The concern, however, is that less popular composers whose works are performed live in thousands of small venues may lose out, should the society find the cost of collecting relatively small sums prohibitively expensive.

The commission was called in to investigate the Performing Right Society in November 1994, following an approach by the Office of Fair Trading which had received a number of complaints from society members alleging unfair practices and administrative inefficiency. Some had complained about the level of administration fees, others claimed the method of collecting royalties favoured some composers at the expense of others.

The PRS, which was founded by a group of music hall composers in 1914, has a monopoly on the collection of royalties for musical performances, live and broadcast, in the UK. The commission's recommendations could, however, lead to a fragmentation of the system with regard to live performances. Yesterday, the PRS acknowledged some of the criticisms and said over a third of the recommendations had been carried out, with others under way. The issue of opt-outs for members who wish to administer their own rights in respect of live performances is being considered before

being put before the board and membership. Society chairman Andrew Potter said: "For over 80 years PRS has genuinely tried its best to serve the needs of an enormously wide range of writers and music publishers. This inquiry has been one of several points in history where we have benefited from taking a long hard look at ourselves." Yesterday's report was welcomed by Dominic McGonigal, of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, one of the organisations which has been critical of the PRS. "The PRS has improved over the past year or so... but it's still got a lot of sorting out to do."

Consumer affairs minister John Taylor said the director general of the Office of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, would be consulting the PRS to ensure that the report's recommendations were carried out. If insufficient progress had been made after four months, the Department of Trade and

Industry could make an order requiring the PRS to comply. "The [commission] find that composers, publishers and music users have benefited greatly from the work of the PRS. But they also find evidence of inefficiency arising from deficiencies in corporate structure and management practices," he said.

Stars celebrate as hope glimmers for lesser lights

John Ezard on the reverberations of the report from U2 gigs to local hops

FOR the rock group U2, yesterday's Monopolies and Mergers Commission report is worth millions. "You've made my day — I'm delighted," the Irish group's manager, Paul McGuinness, rejoiced when the Guardian told him its recommendations. It reminded him of the "tantaling" moment when his musicians grossed \$1.3 million at a venue in Italy — and saw 10 per cent of it vanish at once into the maw of the local performing right society. "It was appalling, we never saw the money again," he said. That happened several times on U2's 1993 Italian tour — but if the commission's recommendation on live performing royalties is enforced, it won't on their next tour in 1997. By then, a new breed of hard-nosed rock middlemen will have sprung up to see that the money is channelled to the groups who wrote the songs. The British Performing Right Society takes a lower percentage. But the group still blames it for failing to distribute large sums to them. "What happened to us in Italy was essentially because of a European system the fuddy-duddy British society failed to crack", Mr McGuinness said. "We kept protesting to them, trying to get them to collect the money owed to us, but they reacted by retreating into their deaf way of doing things." Hence U2's longstanding high

court case against the British society. In its complaint to the commission, the group said the society collected only 50 per cent of money owed and took more than three years to pay this. For the English Folk Dance and Song Society — which is also rejoicing — the report means at least an extra £1,102 a year. This is the difference between the £1,200 it received from the society in July 1993 — when its songwriting members were allowed to report performances of their work and the £98 it got last July after the society unilaterally withdrew this system of notification. Brenda Godrich, a leading member of the society, complained to the commission that the PRS was acting unfairly. "It was appalling, we never saw the money again," he said. For the 100 PRS members in the 250-strong Association of British Jazz Musicians, the report could mean a total £70,000 extra a year. The association complained of the same injustice as the EPDSS — the PRS's recent reliance on share-outs based on a sample of performances at 460 "significant" UK venues. The jazz composers, like folk songwriters, say this system leaves out most of the small gigs, folk evenings and cafes at which their work was played. One south London jazz pianist's yearly PRS income has fallen by £340 — "not much for Paul McCartney but enough to pay a gas bill," said Chris Hodgkin, association director of jazz services. And although McCartney's £400 million personal fortune is almost all based on royalties, less successful musicians complain he has 20 votes out the PRS compared to their one.



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'Dazzling' first Bacon found

THIS is a self-portrait of the artist in his youth as never seen before, writes Gary Young.

The late Francis Bacon (above) painted the picture of himself in 1930 when he was 21 — and then hid it from collectors for more than 60 years.

The small oil painting, measuring only 15x11in by 11in, was discovered by art writer Angus Stewart, who has spent six years trying to trace Bacon's early works.

Mr Stewart, curator of the Francis Bacon and Henry Moore Exhibition at next month's Fine Art and Antiques Fair in Olympia, London, now plans to put the picture on show from the week beginning February 27.

The find has prompted considerable interest in the art world because the self-critical Bacon, who died aged 82 in 1992, was thought to have destroyed most of his early work. As an older man he often bought back works he had sold when he was young simply to get rid of them. He charged 45 guineas for the self-portrait at the time, but it may now fetch over £250,000.

Mr Stewart said: "It is a dazzling work. It is the first painting by Bacon of any significance that we have. He kept this self-portrait for 50 years so it obviously meant something to him."

Test on o


PHILIC SECTOR PA

Refighters

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'Murder inquiry is never closed. When new clues emerge we are duty bound to follow them up'



The body of John McInnes is carried away from his grave by police at Stonehouse, Strathclyde, for tests which could prove he was the 1968/69 serial killer 'Bible John'

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

Test on corpse could solve 26-year-old murder

Erland Clouston

A MURDER trail that began 26 years ago in a brassy Glasgow dance hall led yesterday to a white plastic tent in the corner of a country graveyard.

It took four hours for the squad of gravediggers to retrieve Mr McInnes's skeleton. The work was hampered by the frozen soil and the fact that his mother was buried above him.

That is not something that anybody enters into lightly, Superintendent Louis Munn said. "They've turned it into a soap opera," complained a pensioner outside the Stonehouse grocers.

'Bible John, ghoulish who murdered Scotland's innocence'. Andrew O'Hagan reports on serial killer

IN THE 1970s harassed Scottish mothers had a certain way of talking. It wasn't unusual to hear them warn their misbehaving kids that if they didn't stop their carry on, Bible John would get them.



whereabouts, on the nights in question. Two months later, Helen Puttock went dancing with her sister, Jeannie.

emerge that they were also slain with semen. The presence of the three women at the same dancehall, the way in which they were strangled, the fact of their menstruation, the sightings of two of the women in the company of this well dressed, light haired man - all of it pointed to one killer.

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY: Uncertainty over finance for new deals raises fear of redundancies and general disruption

Firefighters/ Merseyside dispute may spread south

Soumas Milne
Labour Editor

between nine and 24 hours on 25 days since the dispute began last August, at a cost of around £550,000 in police and army emergency cover.

Teachers/ Settlement of 3.8pc could mean job cuts

SCHOOL governors and parents were yesterday awaiting details of a teachers' pay settlement which could precipitate a second year of soaring class sizes and the loss of teaching posts.

schools into a fresh round of redundancies if the Government sticks to its guns over not providing additional funding to cover pay.

NHS/ 'Alarm bells ring' over funding of awards

HEALTH managers said that a 4 per cent pay recommendation, unless fully funded by the Government, would have to be paid for with cuts in services, writes Chris Mihill.

are concerned that there might be strings attached to this year's deal, such as moves towards local pay bargaining, which they bitterly oppose, seeing it as a further fragmentation of the service.

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SAW

THERE IS STILL TIME TO HELP STOP THE NEWBURY BYPASS WITHOUT GETTING COLD AND MUDDY OR CLIMBING A TREE

The construction company that will build the Newbury bypass has not yet been chosen. Please write now or send a fax to the chief executives of the companies tendering for the building contract (listed below). Ask them to withdraw and to put our beautiful countryside before the profits of their shareholders. Tell them you intend to buy a single share in the company that accepts this commission to bulldoze protected nature reserves, historic sites and areas of outstanding beauty. So that, from now on, they can expect you to attend their Annual General Meetings and ask them how they propose to repay their debt to the country's natural heritage - if they bulldoze ahead now. Cut traffic, not trees.

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To send a decision to support the local campaign of Newbury and for information about a protest walk and rally on the 11th February along the proposed bypass route phone 0950 224488. For information about the alternatives to the bypass, how to join Friends of the Earth, or to send a decision to support our campaign phone 01882 482 297.

Italy names bureaucrat as next PM

John Hooper in Rome

THE Italian president, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, yesterday asked a 71-year-old former bureaucrat to form a broadly-based government with a brief to keep the country ticking over while politicians try to agree on reforming the constitution.

Antonio Maccanico is Italy's "Sir Humphrey". A quietly spoken career civil servant with a reputation for discretion, he was the right-hand man of two successive heads of state and a prime minister.

He has an impressive reputation for inspiring trust in people of widely differing persuasions. But he is also quintessentially someone linked to the so-called First Republic — the weak and corrupt system of government that was meant to have ended at the general election two years ago.

Though an entirely new political class came to the fore as a result of the poll, the rules under which its members were elected and under which the country is run had barely been tampered with. That remains the situation.

With well over 20 parties more or less equally split between left and right, the country has been unable to sustain an administration since the fall of Silvio Berlusconi's rightwing cabinet at the end of 1994. Mr Maccanico was asked to form his government after three weeks of tortuous negotiations prompted by the fall of Lamberto Dini's non-party "government of experts".

But the final round of talks between President Scalfaro and party representatives did at least reveal a degree of con-

sensus that Italy might be better off with a directly elected president and a two-round voting system along French lines.

Mr Maccanico said the country needed an administration which could "tackle the most urgent questions facing the government during the time needed by parliament to carry out constitutional reforms". Among priorities he mentioned were lower inflation and a return to the European Monetary System.

Before taking office, he will need to select a cabinet, draft a programme, and secure adequate parliamentary backing for both. But, judging by the generally favourable reaction of the majority of party leaders, he will have no difficulty getting cross-party support.

Success would avert the need for a return to the country at a time when most party chiefs have reason to be wary of a vote. It would also provide a government for the rest of Italy's term as EU president. Even so, it is likely to take Mr Maccanico a month or more to clear all the hurdles.

After serving Presidents Sandro Pertini and Francesco Cossiga from 1978 to 1987, Mr Maccanico was made chairman of Mediobanca, the influential Milan-based merchant bank. He later served as a minister in the Christian Democrat governments of Ciriaco De Mita and Giulio Andreotti from 1988 to 1991, though his political sympathies lay with the centrist Republican Party.

In 1993, Mr Maccanico was elected to the senate as a Republican. He returned to government the same year, occupying the cabinet secretary's post under another stopgap prime minister, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

Drug squad snares only itself

Dutch police helped traffickers shift tonnes of narcotics as dealers outwitted them, Paul O'Driscoll in Amsterdam reports

THE Dutch justice system was sharply criticised yesterday for helping smugglers import vast quantities of illegal drugs into the Netherlands.

Large amounts of these drugs, including cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine, were then re-exported to Britain and other countries with the knowledge of the Dutch anti-narcotics police, who failed to alert British customs. Only one shipment, a lorry-load of ecstasy, was ever stopped.

A parliamentary inquiry

revealed that hundreds of tonnes of drugs flooded into the Netherlands over a five-year period ending last June, under the eyes of the anti-drugs police, known as the Inter Regional Teams (IRT).

The Van Traa parliamentary report released yesterday outlined a police plan which was designed to snare the Dutch-based drugs wholesalers but which went hopelessly awry. The police lost control of their scheme in the early 1990s and unwittingly began working for the criminals they had set out to catch.

During that period, at least \$2 billion-worth of drugs were allowed free transit into the Netherlands and on to neighbouring countries.

More than 400 tonnes of cannabis a year were imported into the Netherlands. Only 300 tonnes is consumed each year, even under the country's relaxed drug laws, and more than half of that is home grown.

No drugs were ever recovered, and only one person was put behind bars for drugs trafficking.

The justice minister, Wimie Sorgdrager, and the police bore the main criticism for failing to fight organised crime. The justice department was singled out for allowing thousands of ecstasy tablets to be shipped to Britain.

The route across the channel was closed down only when British police inadvertently stopped a lorry driver carrying a cargo of the drug. But while the ecstasy route was partially closed, several other routes remained open.

The Amsterdam branch of the IRT monitored four similar shipments but failed to tip off their English counterparts. Yet they paid an informer \$200,000 to keep an eye on the shipments.

The report outlined new rules and a restructuring of the Dutch judicial mechanism to place greater emphasis on targeting criminal gangs.

The disgraced IRT method saw police squads across the country recruiting small-time dealers as spies. Many dealers were encouraged to import

large amounts of drugs to establish themselves as potential partners for existing drug barons. They were given immunity from prosecution and allowed to keep all profits, tax free.

But the plan backfired when the spies double-crossed the police and went to work for the drug barons. It was four years before the police found out they had been outwitted and at least 400,000 kilograms of marijuana and 10,000 kilograms of cocaine had been brought into the Netherlands.

In one failed operation, police lost 20 roll-on roll-off containers containing marijuana.

Four drug gangs which benefited from the five-year investigation are still in busi-

ness, the report said. Criminalologists estimate that more than 8,000 people are employed full-time by the drug gangs.

The French and German governments have urged The Hague to adopt a stronger anti-drugs policy. President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl are to meet the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, in March to discuss the issue.

Officials maintain that all drugs brought in during the operation were consumed in the Netherlands. But a straw poll of local dealers contradicts that. The industrially treated cannabis favoured by the gangs is regarded as a by-product in Amsterdam's coffee shops, and the local cocaine market remains small.

Sarajevo's bridge of unity lives up to its name again

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

ONE of the most graphic symbols of the Sarajevo siege, the barricades on the Bridge of Brotherhood and Unity, were finally cast aside yesterday as hundreds of civilians crossed between government and Serb-held areas of the divided city for the first time in nearly four years.

Reunited families were locked in tearful embraces and policemen from opposing sides shook hands and chatted on the 30-yard concrete bridge, whose socialist name had until yesterday been a sick joke for those who live on either side.

Throughout the war, the bridge over the River Miljacka was Sarajevo's "Checkpoint Charlie", a heavily fortified crossing point where, like its counterpart in Berlin, prisoners were exchanged and a small number of civil-

ians with special permits were allowed to cross.

It was also one of the city's most dangerous spots. Many of the upper-storey flats on both sides of the bridge were converted into sniper nests.

Nato officials hailed the bridge's opening as a success for their "patience but tough" pressure on both sides. In the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza, however, the Nato-led implementation force is facing a threat from rogue gunmen.

Nato troops lightened their security after six sniping incidents in the district since Sunday, including one in which a British soldier was struck on the wrist.

Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor of the United Nations war crimes tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia accused Serbia yesterday of failing to cooperate and expressed pessimism about catching indicted Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic soon.



A policeman admires the giant painting by the German artist Gotfrid Helnwein at the opening of his one-picture exhibition at St Petersburg's Glinky Museum yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXANDER DEMANCHUK

German shrine to free speech under threat

Cyberspace is the censor's new forum, Ian Traynor in Cologne reports

RIGHT by the main entrance to Cologne's cathedral, Walter Hermann's shrine to free speech is under threat.

Five years ago last month, the homeless former art student, aged 37, inaugurated the "wailing wall" by the cathedral walls, a constantly changing exhibit featuring hundreds of cardboard "bricks" strung between triangular scaffolding on which anyone can write anything.

The Church and the city authorities have been trying ever since to muzzle him and evict the "democracy forum".

Mr Hermann's idea has proved popular, even a tourist attraction. There are 800 inscribed "bricks" on display, written in many languages.

Another 40,000 placards are stored in a Cologne bus.

But battle is raging in the city's courts. Last month, the judges ruled that Cathedral Square is Church and not public property, and that the authorities may remove what they regard as an eyesore.

The vagrant's lawyers are appealing, insisting that the wailing wall is on public property. "This is a public, not a private matter," argues Mr Hermann. "What is at stake here is freedom of expression and of assembly."

A world away from the homeless of Cologne, Germany's battle to balance the public interest and the rule of law with freedom of expression is also being played out, more trickily and controversially, in the new democratic theatre of cyberspace.

Last month, the Bavarian prosecution authorities threatened to sue Compuserve, the United States online service provider, for facilitating the illegal circulation of child pornography via the Internet.

The company responded by barring access to 200 user groups, the first known instance of global censorship on the Internet because of the action of a single government.

Last week, the Germans struck again. Prosecutors in Mannheim forced the online service provider of the national telecommunications company, Deutsche Telekom, to close access to the cyberspace site of a German neo-

Next propagandist who lives in Canada.

"The new technology is forcing the hand of the law. It's a new development," says Professor Basil Markisisis, director of Oxford's new institute for the comparative study of European law, set up with German funding.

If the Internet is the apotheosis of free speech, Germany looks bent on retreating in the electronic frontiers to make what is available internationally conform with national law.

"The German constitution has a very nuanced set of rules which balance free speech against other conflicting interests," said Prof Markisisis. "There is no black-and-white approach that says free speech is everything, as with the American approach, or that reputation is everything, as with the English approach."

If they tear down the wailing wall, we'll build it again. This is a piece of living democracy.

Germany is uneasy with American-style unfettered freedom of expression. Verbal incitement to racial hatred is a criminal offence, and public denial of the Holocaust was criminalised following the racist violence after reunification five years ago.

The result is that victories for freedom of expression can generate outrage at the highest levels of the democratic political elite.

A few months ago, the constitutional court ruled that it was permissible to describe all soldiers "as murderers", sparking Chancellor Helmut Kohl to fume that it was intolerable that "our soldiers be equated with criminals".

The test case derives from the 1990s when the German critic Kurt Tucholsky coined the aphorism "soldiers are murderers". He was tried and acquitted on charges of slander, but in 1994 a German pacifist was arrested for broadcasting the same sentiment via a car radio.

Mr Hermann may not go all the way to the constitutional court, but he is unembarrassed by legal threats. "If they tear down the wailing wall, we'll build it again. This is a piece of living democracy here."

Spontaneous fires spark fear in French toy town

The boffins are baffled and new age speculation abounds about the mystery fires which have brought terror - and death - to eastern France, reports Alex Duval Smith in Moirans

IN THE toymaking capital of France, no one doubts the existence of Father Christmas. But as a series of inexplicable fires continues to sweep Moirans, thoughts are turning to Lucifer.

For three weeks in this small town deep in the Jura mountains, household objects such as tins of food, garden furniture and a bag of cement have spontaneously burst into flames. Last week two people died after three fires broke out within seven hours in one house.

The best brains in France have been brought in to study what is known here as "the phenomenon": small fires, with orange flames, which can ignite in drawers or airing cupboards and often appear to start on metal objects.

In most of Europe, Thursdays are welcomed as a step

closer to the weekend. But in northern Moirans they are dreaded, because the 15 fires to-date have happened at the end of the week, usually in the afternoon.

One after the other, nuclear physicists, seismologists and geologists have been summoned. Police have ruled out arson. A man with a diving pendulum has been pacing the Rue Roussin and a witch doctor has held court in the Prise d'Eau bistro.

In his elegant 17th century *mairie*, Jean Burdeyron, the town's mayor, was straining to distinguish the facts from the fiction spreading like wildfire among Moirans's 2,200 inhabitants.

"Mr Burdeyron said: 'We pride ourselves in having our feet firmly on the ground. But it is getting harder and harder to be rational. When I first

heard that the people who died had suffered third-degree burns under intact clothing, I assumed it was just rumour. But I gather it is true.'

At the bar in the cafe Chez Fred the chat-chat among workers from the toy factory

emitting high-tension current. The theory suggested this was turning metal-framed villas into micro-wave ovens.

Mr Grossiord stopped short of admitting that all rational theories had been tested, but said: "All I can do for the moment is send my staff out with voltage meters again and keep monitoring all the transformer stations."

Only one thing is clear amid the confused clues which have emerged since a small fire started on a coat-hanger in Charles Raffin's wardrobe at 3.15pm on January 7 — scientists and residents do not trust one another to find a solution.

Most of the residents have come round to the "ionised hydrogen theory", if only because it is resisted by the scientists. It was put forward last week by Jean Meunier, who describes himself as a disciple of Haroun Tazieff, a French volcanologist.

Mr Meunier said: "What we are dealing with are telluric currents. Moirans sits on a geophysical fault line which

allows ionised hydrogen to escape and be ignited near the surface by metal-framed villas into micro-wave ovens."

Mr Meunier — who points out "no one believed Galileo either" — is not alone in coming up with alternative theories. In the Prise d'Eau bistro, Emile Battista, a witch doctor from the Pyrenees, said "Only an exorcist sent from the Vatican can save Moirans now."

In a country where the fires of Hell have not been abolished, he found an attentive audience. But he discounted one theory that if you stick a pin through the globe at Moirans, it emerges at Mururoe atoll, France's nuclear-testing site in the South Pacific.

Mr Battista said: "I think we have progressed from the days of believing in divine retribution."

A few doors away, Madeleine Cordier, aged 82, was not discounting any theories. The tiles on her roof slid off all at once on Saturday.

"It was not a fire, but it was not normal either," she said. "I am going to stay with friends this weekend."

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مكتبة العصر



Words of wisdom... A man studies the Koran in the 1,000-year-old Azhar mosque in Cairo before breaking his fast at sunset in keeping with his devotions during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. PHOTOGRAPH: MOHAMED EL-DARHAWNY

Nigerian 'hate' campaign threatens Soyinka's life

A fearful dictatorship has made a series of charges against the exiled writer, writes **Chris McGreal** in Port Harcourt

POSTERS threatening the life of the exiled Nigerian Nobel literature prize winner, Wole Soyinka, have been plastered across Lagos two days after a government minister implicated him in bomb attacks.

The posters, signed by "committed patriots", denounce opponents of the country's military dictator, General Sani Abacha, including the National Liberation Council of Nigeria (NALCON) led by Professor Soyinka.

"To snarlist Professor Wole Soyinka and his NALCON cohorts we say: he who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind [and] you may run but you can't hide," the poster warns.

The threats come amid rising paranoia within the regime since the recent death of Gen Abacha's son in a presidential plane crash, and both explosions in the northern cities of Kano and Kaduna. The dictatorship has accused foreign governments of supplying military and financial assistance to exiled

opponents, and claims British Intelligence is plotting to break up Nigeria. Gen Abacha has even turned on sympathetic voices in the media, attacking them for insufficient patriotism.

The government is keen to ensure that no one thinks the death of Ibrahim Abacha, who ran his father's considerable financial interests, was anything but an accident. There is no evidence to the contrary but the crash, which killed 13 others, and the bombings have clearly shaken the regime.

A previously unknown group claimed responsibility for the explosions at a Kaduna hotel and one at Kano airport. The only casualty was the bomber himself in the hotel blast.

A government investigation has not turned up any suspects, but earlier this week the minister for special duties, Wada Nas, pointed the finger at Prof Soyinka, even though the only "evidence" linking him to the scene is a copy of one of his books found on the hotel bomber.



Wole Soyinka: Refuses to criticise bombings

Nigerian state television followed with a flood of allegations, including charges that Burkina Faso has offered Prof Soyinka and other exiles a military base for armed training, and that the South African government supplied political exiles with \$300,000 and a building in Johannesburg for their campaign against the Nigerian regime.

Prof Soyinka, in an interview during a visit to South Africa, denied any connection with the attacks, or receiving foreign financial and military assistance. But he declined to criticise the bombings.

whether I approve of actions taken against a pernicious and universally vilified regime? For now, I am going to keep my opinion to myself," he said.

Military officials are also distributing an article attributed to an unnamed American magazine which claims to prove that foreign intelligence agencies are plotting to destroy Nigeria. Among the conspiracies is an alleged liaison between MI6 and the historian Basil Davidson, who wrote *The Black Man's Burden*, an analysis of the shortcomings of colonialism imposed borders in Africa.

The article claims British intelligence and Mr Davidson plan to eradicate existing states and return the continent to tribal kingdoms.

Mr Nas said he could not understand why Prof Soyinka remained in self-imposed exile, saying he was in no danger if he returned home.

Wada Nas quoted the example of the prominent lawyer, Gani Fawehinmi, as one where a government opponent was free to campaign for a return to civilian rule.

The next day, Mr Fawehinmi was arrested after trying to address a student rally. He is still detained, supposedly for questioning in connection with the bombings.

Peres plays down gap with Syria

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

ISRAEL's negotiations with Syria on the future of the Golan Heights are going well, the Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, insisted yesterday, but he signalled a tough line on bargaining over West Bank settlements and Jerusalem.

Speaking in London after meeting the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, Mr Peres said the latest session of talks with Syria had given him grounds for optimism — in contrast to more downbeat assessments from both the United States and other Israeli leaders.

"Neither Syria nor ourselves have a better option," he said. "I do believe sincerely that President Assad [of Syria] has decided to take the road of peace. It is only a matter of time before we shall have peace with Syria and Lebanon as we did with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians."

Discussion of economic co-operation, normalisation, water issues and security arrangements in an atmosphere of "total informality" had been an innovation in talks near Washington that ended on Wednesday, Mr Peres said.

But with all other accounts suggesting a wide gap between Jerusalem and Damascus — on sensitive issues such as whether Israel is prepared to withdraw fully and Syria to normalise completely — the prime minister seemed to be thinking wistfully and with an eye to voters at home. Warren Christopher, the US secretary of state, is to visit the two capitals again next week, but Washington is playing down hopes of an imminent breakthrough.

Mr Peres failed to respond

to suggestions that he call a general election before the October deadline — risking a confrontation with the opposition Likud over concessions to the Arabs. But he said if he did so, it would be for domestic reasons and not because of the peace process.

Israeli newspapers speculated yesterday that Mr Peres, still riding a wave of public sympathy after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin last November, would call the elections in mid-May.

Asked about problems with his electorate over a deal with President Assad, Mr Peres told the BBC: "I think the country will agree to make peace with Syria once we know we will have real peace. I feel this time the Syrians are much more serious than ever before."

Agreement with Syria, Israel's most implacable enemy, is the missing piece in the Middle East jigsaw. But Mr Peres indicated tough talks ahead when Israel and the Palestinians begin talks on a final peace settlement in May. Jerusalem, which Palestinians demand as their capital, was "religiously open but politically closed," he said. Israel captured East Jerusalem in 1967, then annexed it.

On the West Bank, where some 130,000 Jews live in settlements established since 1967, Mr Peres reinforced the tough message of recent weeks that, after the two Oslo agreements on Palestinian self-rule, future territorial concessions could be limited.

He said: "I do not see any reason why the settlers and Palestinians cannot co-exist once relations between them will be changed — and I already see the beginning of a change. I don't see any reason why we should take further steps."

THE BOOK THEY WON'T WANT YOU TO READ

MAXWELL
THE FINAL VERDICT

TOM BOWER

Eight years ago, Robert Maxwell tried to ban his damning and bestselling biography, *Maxwell: The Outsider*.

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Julian Hill

A glimpse of stocking

JULIAN HILL, the research chemist whose work led to the accidental discovery of nylon, has died at the age of 91. Despite revolutionising everyday life in warfare and courtship, his find brought him neither fame nor fortune.

igation carried out under the station's organic research director, Wallace Carothers, who was seeking stronger substitutes for silk.

Once again Hill was left in the shadows. Carothers, a brilliant research director but a man torn by depressive illness, might have shared the Nobel award had he not committed suicide in a period of profound depression shortly after his marriage in 1937. Hill continued to work at the Du Pont laboratory, initially under Flory, but his part in the drama faded quickly from the world's memory.

gentle person, an amateur naturalist, a lover of the countryside, a violinist and a sportsman. In an interview in 1968, seemingly regretting the industrial choice of nylon and other non-degradable plastics instead of the cellulose-based products on which he had worked in the twenties (and which are broken down by natural processes), he said that he thought that "mankind will perish by being smothered in plastic." He is not alone in this view.

Anthony Tucker
Julian Hill, research chemist, born September 4, 1904; died January 27, 1996



Leg work... Julian Hill with strands of nylon at a celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of its discovery

Jamie Uys



Pathfinder for a generation... Jamie Uys at work on Beautiful People, 1974

One man's reality before the dawn in South Africa

JAMIE UYS, who has died of a heart attack aged 74, was the first South African film director to gain international recognition with the serendipitous box-office success of The Gods Must Be Crazy (1981). During the darkest-before-the-dawn days of apartheid, this unsophisticated, slapstick culture-clash comedy drew audiences everywhere. It became the highest-grossing foreign movie over in France where it showed for months, outdoing An Officer and a Gentleman and Tootsie, ran a year in Portugal, and broke all records in Malaysia. The Queen Mother is supposed to have seen it three times.

underlying ecological message and, above all, the natural playing of the Bushman himself. "I spent three to four months looking at and taking pictures of Bushmen in Namibia, Botswana and the northern Cape," explained Uys. "I wanted to see every Bushman in the whole world before I chose my man. I came back with 40 to 50 photographs. He just stood out."

Uys (pronounced oes), an Afrikaner, was born in the small Transvaal town of Boksburg and studied mathematics at the University of Pretoria. After three years teaching, he decided to join his father-in-law farming on the banks of the Palala River in the north-west Transvaal. It was here that he made his first film, Daar Doer in die Bosveld (Down in the Bushveld) in 1949 for £3,000 using a 16mm home movie camera. It was shown in church and school halls across the country and at a cinema in Pretoria. However, it was another 10 years before he made his first commercial film, an

Afrikaans version of Rip Van Winkle for which "I hocked the farm and everything I owned to raise the capital and lease equipment." As the South African film industry was virtually nonexistent, Uys soon became a one-man movie company, writing, producing, directing and editing, as well as designing the costumes and building the sets and props. "Filming should be a team effort. I never got round to the team part," he claimed.

Under apartheid, the few indigenous pictures that were made in South Africa were mainly wildlife features and crude comedies in Afrikaans. Aside from Cry The Beloved Country (1950), Zoltan Kossik's stilled, well-mounting liberal view of apartheid, the only films that got to grips with realities were made outside the country. Uys decided to examine in broad comic terms the social tensions between the English and Afrikaans rather than between black and white. However, some critics found his portrait of the self-obsessed Bushman in his hit film and its sequel, The Gods Must Be Crazy II (1989) rather paternalistic, the heroes being a young Aryan couple. A certain condescension applied to all races, especially in his Candid Camera-type films like Beautiful People. Uys's desire to make movies in part sprang from a love for silent movie comedians, especially Chaplin and Keaton.

Arthur Martin

The hunter who wouldn't let go

ARTHUR MARTIN, who has died aged 61, was one of MI6's leading molehunters who became obsessed with the spectre of Soviet penetration of Britain's security and intelligence establishment in the fifties and sixties.

Arthur Martin, who has died aged 61, was one of MI6's leading molehunters who became obsessed with the spectre of Soviet penetration of Britain's security and intelligence establishment in the fifties and sixties.

Letter

Julia Stonor writes: In 1947 John Foster, QC, Fellow of All Souls, brought Marcia Draytonport (Obituary, January 27) safely out of Czechoslovakia before the death of her lover, Jan Masaryk.

Safely installed in a white house between Shipbroke and Wargrave in Berkshire, Marcia became a close friend of Sherman and Jeanne Stonor, and introduced to them an American washing-machine. Her fiery, fascinating temperament seemed to mark time with the strength of its vibrations, bounding up and down on a flagged floor.

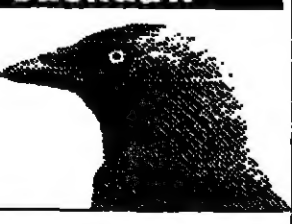
Birthdays

Christie Brinkley, supermodel, 42; Andrew Davis, conductor, 52; Sir Norman Foster, MP, former chairman, Conservative Party, 58; Valery Giscard d'Estaing, former president of France, 70; Hughie Green, quizmaster, 78; David Jason, actor, 56; Sir Chips Keswick, chairman, Hambros Bank, 56; Barry McGuigan, boxer, 35; David Newton, jazz pianist, composer, 38; Libby Purves, writer and broadcaster, 46; Brid Rodgers, SLDL spokesperson on women's issues, 61; Elaine Stritch, actress and singer, 66.

Death Notices

FRASER, Gordon Stewart, widower, on 20th January, in Oxford, beloved husband of Sir Angus Fraser and Mrs Mary Ann Fraser. Funeral service will be held at St Michael's Church, Highgate, NE at 11.30am on Friday 9th February followed by committal at Holywell Cemetery, Plaistow at 12 noon. Friends may call at 111, Highgate, NE 7 9AA. Telephone 011 484 4520.

Jackdaw



with the perfectly cut seam and the correct shade of tortoiseshell button. It is often said that sex sells anything. But in fashion it is the other way around. From Calvin Klein's heavy-breathing Obsession ads to Gianni Versace's pseudo-hook-eyes with hearts of polished steel, the rag trade hawks the promise of having those designer labels ripped off your back in the heat of passion. Couturiers who coo over their face-lifted clients are nothing more than pimps. Except that real pimps would swiftly go out of business if they encouraged their protégés to don bubble skirts or layers of tattered chiffon...

of plebs in snow-washed denim and shell-suits, who wouldn't know the difference between pebble wool craps and parchment viscose jersey if their Giros depended on it. But at least the common people understand the rules of attraction — they've got the kids to prove it, even if the little Kyle and Jason were conceived thanks to a red, strappy, catalogue mini-dress with puckered seams and Visible Panty Line. Laura Turner comes over all anti-fashion for the men's fashion and features mag, Arena.

called for the decriminalisation of cannabis for personal possession — and we were criticised in letters afterwards. Back in 1991 we began to speculate about the decriminalisation of "hard" drugs.

Money talks
MOST independent school inspections appear to be exercises in mutual admiration. Reports are still along the lines of: "Inspectors did not identify any areas of major concern. This is a splendid school. There are, however, one or two minor recommendations within the main body of the report..." In reality, this independent institution is a "failing school". Its fees are high and its pupils drawn from wealthy (albeit often broken) families, the sons and daughters of military officers, British expatriates, and successful businessmen.

From a report entitled "OFFENDED and ONWARD: a contribution to the school inspection debate" published by CFFT Education Services. Thanks to David Smith.

Mallrat
Q. DID YOU feel a lot of pressure for Mallrats since Clerks was so successful?
A. I've come to accept that we will never be as well reviewed



as we were with Clerks. Hopefully it won't be judged against Clerks — "Gee, more money, but less funny" or something like that. There was also a conscious effort to make something that was a little more mainstream. If you go straight into making your obscure arthouse movies, you get labelled right away. We decided to throw a curve ball and do something mainstream. We'll continue to flip back and forth between commercial and arthouse.

the next. So you have trilogy upon trilogy, and the second movie of each trilogy starts a new trilogy... Somewhere down the line I'd like to do a superhero movie. Like a Batman. It'll never happen, though, because I'm too afraid of a budget like that, and I'd be afraid not to make it juicy. Either that or a Jew. I would love to revive that franchise. We need more killer shark movies.

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Welsh Water alters name

WELSH Water hopes to add the ring of confidence to its reputation by changing its name to Hyder.

PHOTOGRAPH JEFF MORGAN



News in brief

Britannia poised to issue loyalty bonus

BRITANNIA, the country's sixth largest building society and a staunch defender of mutual ownership, said yesterday it would announce details of a loyalty bonus scheme for members within the next couple of months.

Double cut in rates

THE German and French central banks have trimmed interest rates to combat mounting unemployment and avoid a recession in Europe's two biggest economies.

Midland staff jobs demo

MIDLAND Bank staff are planning to protest against job cuts outside some of the group's London and Essex branches over the next two weekends.

Euro setback for Fokker

SHARES in Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker under court protection from creditors, fell 16 per cent after the European Commission said it could not help the company.

Hard line on currency

BUNDESBANK president Hans Tietmeyer last night reaffirmed Germany's hard line over a single currency by insisting that the Maastricht treaty economic convergence criteria must be interpreted strictly to avoid the failure of economic and monetary union.

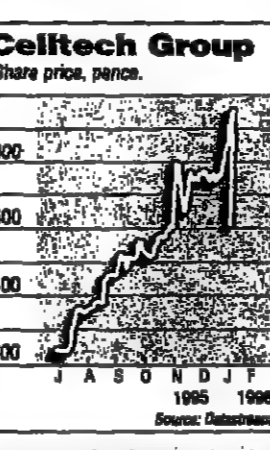
Biotech boom turns sickly

HUNDREDS of millions of pounds were wiped off the value of biotechnology shares yesterday as the wonder stock Celtech undermined confidence in the entire sector by announcing plans to scrap development of an asthma drug.

throughout the "biotech-bubble" as analysts woke up to the commercial risks faced by drugs companies trying to develop new products.

Peter Fellner, the company's chief executive, said: "We and Merck are going to continue our efforts in this area. We want to send out the message that there is real hope we can have blockbuster drugs here."

month in glowing circulars from brokers Yamatchi and Greig Middleton.



Britain's oil and gas output reach 10-year high

OIL and gas output surged last year to their highest levels in 10 years as new offshore fields came on stream and cold weather boosted energy demand, analysts at the Royal Bank of Scotland said yesterday.

Clifford Chance in show of confidence over writ

CLIFFORD Chance, London's largest commercial law firm with more than 230 partners, yesterday sought to play down concerns over a \$610 million writ by four Canadian banks relating to the collapse of London's Canary Wharf office development.

Newsprint price rises slow down

NEWSPRINT suppliers managed to impose smaller than expected price rises last month, raising hopes among newspaper owners that raw material costs have peaked after increases of around 70 per cent in the past 18 months.

Trade Indemnity willingly submits

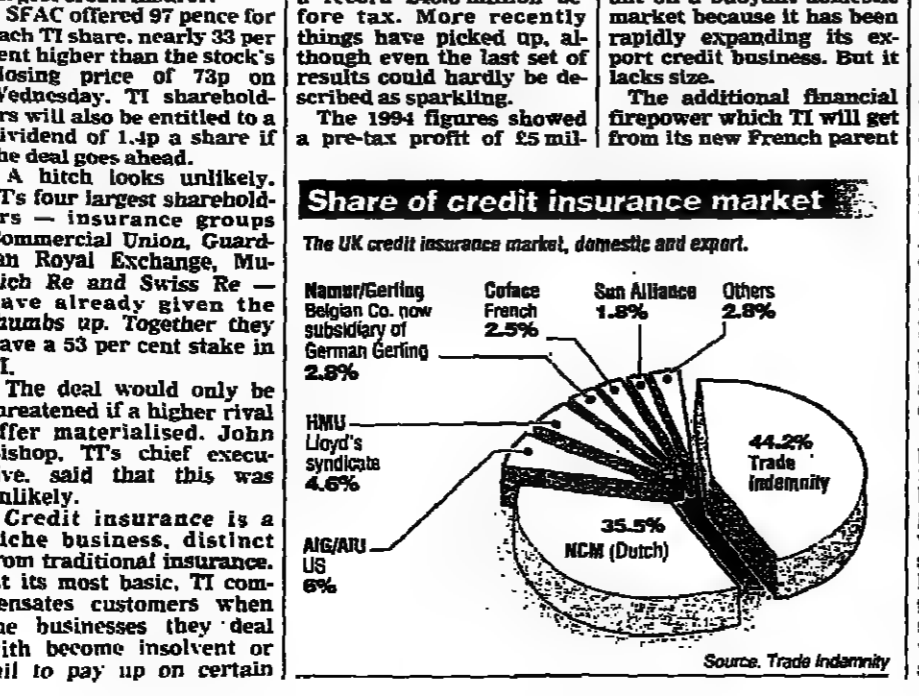
Trade Indemnity, the UK credit insurer, has agreed to submit to a pre-tax profit of £5 million, after a £7.5 million charge for an additional provision.

Energy economist Mark Shen said output reflected the industry's success in using new technology to cut costs, extract reserves from smaller fields and extend the life of fields.

OUTLOOK/French bid for UK No 1 is relief, reports

BRITAIN'S largest credit insurer, Trade Indemnity, has fallen to the French. TI is being bought by its much larger Gallic rival, Compagnie Financière SFAC which yesterday launched an agreed cash bid of £177 million.

TEACHERS' BUILDING SOCIETY. NOTICE TO INVESTORS. The following Gross Interest Rates apply with effect from 15th February 1996.



Share of credit insurance market

The UK credit insurance market, domestic and export. Hannover/Lloyds syndicates 4.6%, Allianz 2.8%, Others 2.9%, Trade Indemnity 44.2%, NCM (Dutch) 35.5%, AIG/AIU US 6%.

Nokia Digital Security. Cellphones Direct Prices!

Advertisement for Nokia Digital Security. Includes a photo of a Nokia mobile phone and text: 'LIMITED OFFER £9.99 INC. VAT FREE CONNECTION TO VOICEMAIL Personal World'. Also lists features like 99 name/number memory, 100 mins talk-time, 30 hrs standby-time.

Advertisement for Cellphones Direct. Includes text: 'ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS FREEPHONE 0500 000 888'. Also mentions 'CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM'.

World Potlig Paki

Maguire

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'مكتبة العدل'

Cricket

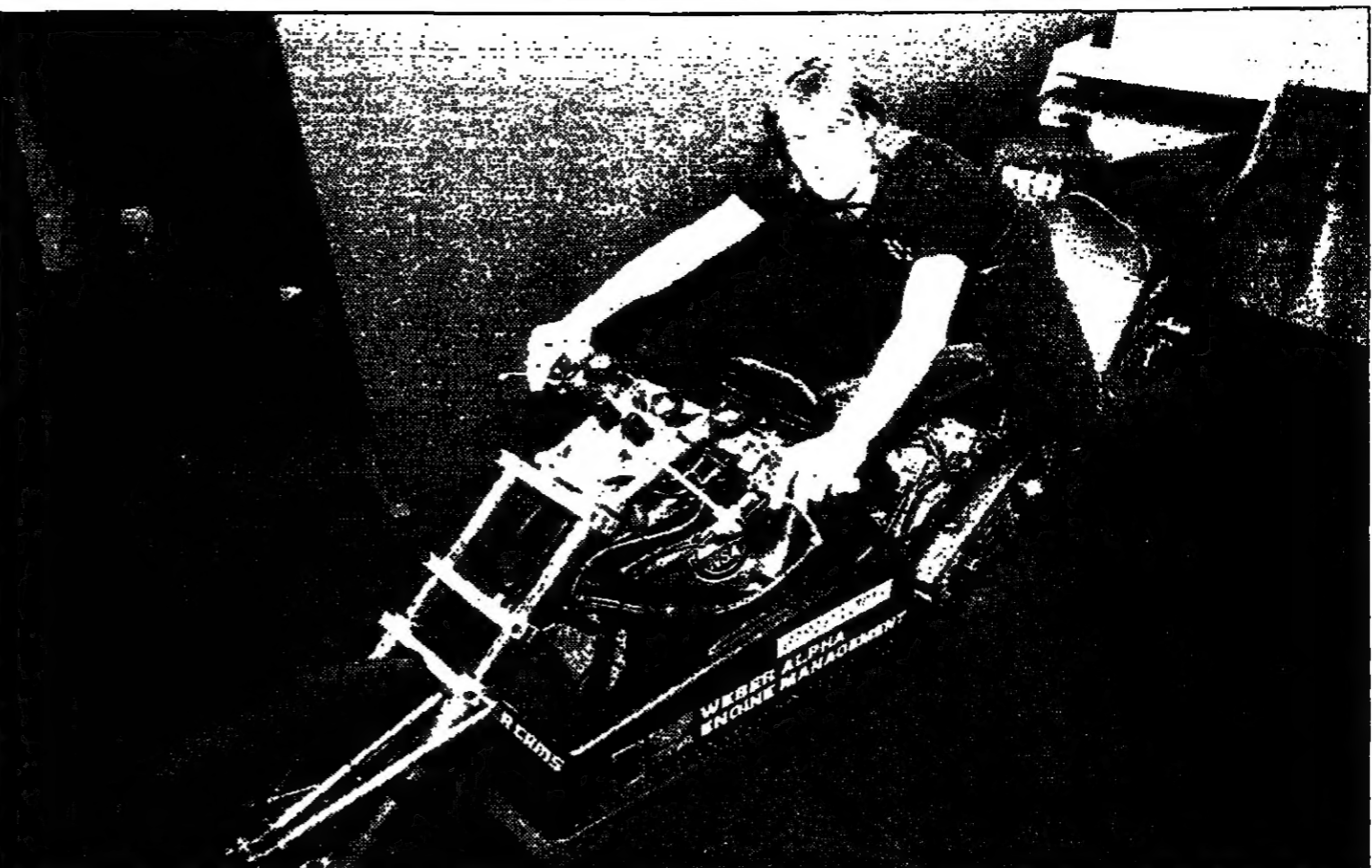
World Cup safety spotlight switches to Pakistan

Kathy Evans, and Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

AS WORLD CUP organisers promised a full review of the security situation in Sri Lanka after Wednesday's suicide bombing in Colombo, new fears were raised about the reception that may await England when they fly to Pakistan tomorrow to begin their preparations for the tournament.

died in clashes between paramilitary forces and Mohajir Quami Party (MQM) militants from the largest ethnic group in the city. This year there has been no let-up in the violence. However, government officials stress that the situation in Pakistan has nothing in common with Sri Lanka's.

particularly since Javed Mehmood, a son of Karachi, will be playing on the team," said one leading editor. In India, cricket board officials said they were making special arrangements for the safety of the Australia and Pakistan teams at the inaugural ceremony at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on February 11, and that security in the city had been tightened.



Dream machine... Graham Sykes needs £5,000 to become the fastest man on two wheels in Britain, and possibly the world. He will be at the Roul Racing and Superbike Show at Alexandra Palace today touring for a sponsor so that he can buy and adapt the five-litre Rover engine that he reckons will give his superbike "Syko" a top speed of 270 mph. The British record stands at 200.9 mph; Dave Campos's record is 222.15 mph

Sport and Television

BBC steps up pressure to protect events

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

THE BBC stepped up the pressure on the Government yesterday to ensure that top sporting events are not poached by satellite television.

should be available for everyone to see live on mainstream television. Seventy per cent said the Government should legislate to protect sport on the main channels — a view shared by 66 per cent of subscribers to Sky Sports.

party alliance of peers including Lord Howell, the former sports minister, and Lord Weatherill, former Conservative Speaker in the Commons, will be debated at Westminster.

The survey by BMRB, of 1,288 people, showed that 82 per cent wanted live coverage rather than highlights; 82 per cent said coverage of top events was an important public service.

10 events people most want to see live on TV

- 1 Olympic Games 74
2 World Cup football 74
3 Commonwealth Games 74
4 FA Cup/Soccer Cup 74
5 Winter Olympics 74
6 Wimbledon 74
7 World Athletics 74
8 World Snooker 68
9 Grand National 68
10 Premier League football 67

Kent pin hopes on Hooper return

KENT are hoping that their West Indian batsman Carl Hooper will be fit for the start of the season after being laid low by a mystery illness.

spell of intense cricket and needs a complete break." In the third and final Under-19 Test in Bulawayo, maiden centuries from Noel Gle (118) and Owais Shah (114 not out) put England in the driving seat against Zimbabwe.

Racing

Maguire set fair for quick return at Sandown

Chris Hawkins

ONE of the great ironies, not to say injustices, of jump racing would be denied the satisfaction of ever becoming champion jockey.

This is not to say, however, that his enthusiasm is on the wane and he hopes to be back in the saddle at Sandown tomorrow just 11 days after a particularly nasty fall at Leicester.

ear, Billygoat Gruff and Martin's Lamp. His horses can only be a shade better in the last few months and one hopes it is just bad luck and nothing to do with desperation.

Call, Flashing Steel and Life of A Lord, the race is being viewed on this side of the Irish Sea at least, as a virtual match between Master Oats and Jodami.

course, although he wouldn't want the ground too heavy at Sandown," said Beattie. Conversely, it cannot be too soft for Master Oats, a real mudlark, although something of a question mark still hangs over the current champion whose third to One Man at Sandown was a below par effort.

his defeat of the best subsequent winner Westman's Weight last time. Michael Chapman, trainer of Seeking Destiny, can also score with Sea God (4.30), who finished well clear of the rest when short-headed by So Amazing in a fast-run race at Southwell last week.

Derryoyne Cheltenham bound after easy win at Punchestown

DERRYOYNE gained a well deserved win when justifying favouritism in the Red Bog Hurdle at Punchestown yesterday.

runs again on Saturday week at Navan in the Boyne Hurdle," said Cunningham. "He was third in the Ladbroke last month despite a strong gallop for the first mile. Derryoyne is going the right way and Mark Dwyer can tell us after Navan, hopefully, where to go with him at Cheltenham," the trainer added.

Folkestone runners and riders

Table with racing results for Folkestone, including race numbers, names, and times.

Table with racing results for Sandown, including race numbers, names, and times.

Southwell all-weather Flat card with form guide

Table with racing results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and times.

Table with racing results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table with racing results for Lingfield, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table with racing results for Sedgemoor, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table with racing results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table with racing results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and times.

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring a phone number and website information.

Drugs and Sport

Peter Nichols reports on the promising teenager who faces a four-year ban amid concern at the rising use of 'social' drugs

Weightlifter positive for ecstasy

DEAN THOMAS, a 17-year-old weightlifter from Didcot, has become the first junior athlete in Britain to test positive for ecstasy.

Thomas was tested after winning the under-56kg category at the South Midlands Divisional Championships at Aylesbury on November 12.

The A sample showed traces of methylene dioxymethylamphetamines (ecstasy) and Thomas has admitted taking the drug.

Only two competitors in British mainstream sport have previously tested positive for ecstasy, namely the ice hockey players Mark Pal-

ister and Richard Tomalin in November 1994. Though both served a 10-month suspension, the British Ice Hockey Association did not release details of the drug taken.

Thomas's case highlights growing concern about recreational drugs showing up in tests. Cannabis use has been prevalent, and in football alone, which has chosen to test for the drug, eight positives were recorded during 1995.

An amphetamine-based drug, ecstasy increases muscular activity and that could be useful in sport. According to Dr Robin Ferner, who runs the West Midlands Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting, it is that very effect which is dangerous.

Thomas denies that he used the drug to improve performance, and readily admits that he had become over-dependent on the drug for social outings.

Rugby Union

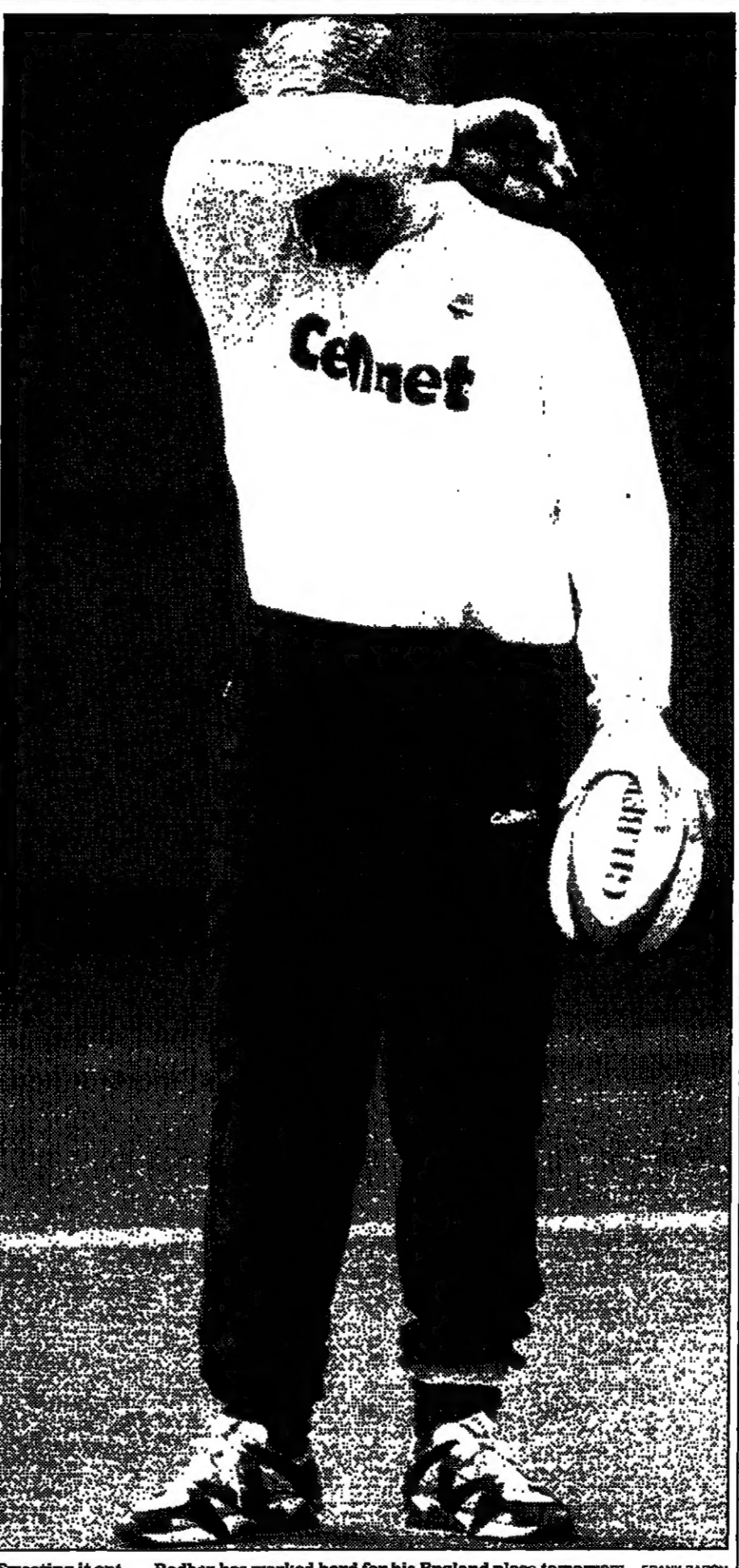
Recall is just reward for resilient Rodber

Robert Armstrong meets the England flanker who was not picked against France but returns against Wales at Twickenham

TIM RODBER understands the capricious nature of Test rugby better than any other player in the England team.

Widely touted as the next England captain for much of 1995, the Northampton flanker suddenly found himself the target of criticism when England's form hit the doldrums in the autumn.

His commercial work is restricted to wearing Reebok boots, yet his fierce loyalty to Northampton, who have put the trauma of relegation behind them with a sparkling promotion challenge, allows him no respite from the pressures of professional rugby.



Sweating it out... Rodber has worked hard for his England place tomorrow FRANK BARON

Northampton. You tend to lose that sharper edge as a blind-side that you only get against League One opponents such as Clarke and Lawrence (Dallaglio). There's a difference that you're bound to miss, especially when you play for England.

"I'll admit you cannot maintain exactly the same level of form that produced 10 wins on the trot with England last year. It didn't help either that I was carrying an injury in the South Africa game — and I got a lot of flak for that — but I intend to just keep cracking on."

"I know what Jack [Rowell] wants from me: an extra physical edge, which I've been working towards in training. I know I'm a good defensive No. 6, that I carry the ball well, and I'm a reasonable jumper at five, where I get through a fair amount of work. I want to make all that pay off on Saturday."

Rugby League

Leeds' loss is Bulls' gain as Lowes decides to move

JAMES LOWES, the Leeds hooker, is the latest signing by Bradford Bulls as they prepare for Super League.

Lowes, who is out of contract, joined Leeds from Hunslet in 1992 and represented a shrewd piece of talent-spotting by Doug Laughton, Leeds' coach at the time.

Snooker

Harold still rules

DAVE HAROLD came to Newport without having won a match all season, yet now finds himself one step away from the Regal Welsh Open final.

Squash

Cancer blow for Parke

SIMON PARKE, the world No. 5, has begun chemotherapy after an operation for testicular cancer only weeks after leading England to the world team title in November.

Sailing

Brewster flying into headwinds

SAMANTHA Brewster is now 1,500 miles west of Cape Horn and on schedule to beat the east-west circumnavigation record of 161 days, averaging 200 miles a day despite facing mainly strong headwinds.



Extra time Cherished colours hit the saddle

RACING lost £15 million last Saturday. But with precision, perhaps, and ingenuity it has found a way of recouping losses in the drift and brightening the bleak season.

colours are reserved at £2,000, the 13 combinations of a new and old at £1,000. All proceeds go to the BHB's Racing Administration Fund. It benefits everyone in racing.

Sixth column

THE two British weightlifters sent home from Barcelona before competing in the 1992 Olympics have spent the Olympiad as competitors should: working to get their own back on those who beat them.



Wing in waiting... by Laing

Expert advice has come from Professor Arnold Beckett, who was succeeded by Cowan at King's. If successful he may be as pleased as the lifters.

As the classic proportion for open-air sculpture is 1 1/4 x life, they will all be the size of lock forwards. More figures may follow, bringing the forwards in. Their shapes appeal to Laing and size is no problem.

THE iron business list of corporate sponsorship has taken hold at the African Nations' Cup in South Africa. Photographers have been banned from taking cameras and beverages out to the pitch and been told to take labels off bottles of mineral water.

THE Barmy Army, England's cricket followers aspiring to respectability despite their soccer-style chants, failed to convince visitors to a wine cellar in France's Vosges, near Stenlenbosch. The Afrikaans Press reports "bottles taken without being paid for, no smoking signs ignored, locals harassed and lawn mowed on."

CHRIS EUBANK, the former world super-middleweight champion, has become a heavyweight at the second attempt. He has passed his HGV driving test. Eubank has had his brushes with the law and landscape in Sussex before. Over the past year he has been driving a giant American truck around Britain on a provisional licence.

WHEN Britain's marathon selectors sit down this weekend to pick the Olympic team there will be a few knowing glances in the direction of the national coach Gordon Surtees. Among the athletes he coaches is Yvonne Danson, who finished third for England in the 1994 Commonwealth Games six years after taking up jogging.

TWICKENHAM was due to unveil a new place-kicker and wing tomorrow but the bronzes to go either side of the gilded lion on the Rowland Hill gate into the West Stand have been deferred to the Ireland match on March 16. They will be joined later by a scrum-half and try-scorer.

JACK ROWELL was happy to explain his call-up of Paul Sampson, the 18-year-old Yorkshire schoolboy, to England's rugby squad training last weekend: "We have to look beyond what we cannot see as selectors, and Sampson fits that bill. Presumably Rowell has been on a course run by Graham Taylor.

SportsGuardian

ENGLAND'S CAPTAIN REVEALS A REDUCTION IN STATUS BY THE MANAGER

Rowell drops Carling from selectors

Robert Armstrong on the downgrading at odds with a call for greater responsibility

WILL CARLING stirred fresh controversy yesterday when he revealed that he is no longer an England selector and takes no part in selection meetings, notwithstanding his position as captain. But the England manager Jack Rowell insisted that Carling was fully consulted about the composition of the team before and after every selectors' meeting and that his opinion remained valuable.

Under Geoff Cooke, Rowell's predecessor, Carling was a selector, and this marks reduced status, particularly since last summer's World Cup. Rowell's single-minded management style, coupled with his procrastination over Carling's future, have severely cut the captain's authority.

Carling said the England squad was "100 per cent confident" in Rowell as manager but, under questioning, he added: "I don't sit in on selection meetings." He confirmed that he had no formal post as a selector. Rowell, who has the final say in team matters, identified the current selectors as Les Cusworth, Mike Slemen, John Elliott and Peter Rossborough, the England A squad manager.

In the past month Rowell has publicly pursued the theme that he wants the senior players — what he calls the "multi-cap brigade" — to take more responsibility on and off the field. Yet Car-

The squad is 100 per cent confident in Rowell as manager — Carling

ling, England's longest-serving captain with more than seven years under his belt, has been given less responsibility, at least formally. No other Test captain with Carling's depth of experience would be kept off his country's selection panel.

Rowell also threw out a broad hint that he wanted the former England prop Jeff Probyn on the selection panel. Probyn has been highly critical of Carling's captaincy and suggested he should not have taken part in the selection of the team when Cooke was manager. It is difficult to see how Carling, "disappointed" at the time by Probyn's attitude, could work effectively with a man who used to believe Carling wanted him out of the England team.

Even though Carling is kept fully informed by Rowell of proposed changes in personnel or the strategic development of the squad, Rowell prefers to involve as many strong personalities as possible in the informal think-tank he has set up since taking over

as manager 23 months ago. His former job as chief executive of Dalgety has conditioned him towards a firm centralist approach to team management which makes liberal use of well-informed satellites.

Captain and manager were at one when Carling echoed Rowell's view that beating Wales in tomorrow's international at Twickenham was more important than playing running rugby, although that possibility was not ruled out. "We need to improve after the France defeat and I believe what the crowd enjoy most is to see England win," said Carling. "I don't think the booing in the Samson game [before Christmas] came from a large section of the crowd. Anyway they gave voice to their approval when we scored our tries."

The Cooke regime was characterised by pre-planning, precise attention to detail at selectors' meetings and prior consultation with Carling face to face and by telephone. For a long period in the early Nineties the England side was settled anyway and, occasionally Cooke and Carling would spend more time discussing the make-up of the six replacements than the team.

In contrast Rowell has been tinkering with the England team — to good effect last season when they won a Grand Slam — but the mood of experimentation is new to Carling in the national set-up. Rowell may have felt his orderly captain should not be directly involved in reshaping the squad with a view to the 1999 World Cup.



State of confusion... Carling at training for tomorrow's Wales match

'Hi' said the scrum-half to the fly



Frank Keating

THE jobs worth clangingly slammed shut the gate at the Arms Park. It is a private practice down there," he growled, unappreciative of any possible first chapter in history.

So not even a glimpse was allowed of the first passes thrown by the new Wales half-back pairing of Arwel Thomas and Robert Howley whose daunting job at Twickenham tomorrow is underlined by their never having played a match together.

Thomas, a pale, frail, spindly spry with a schoolboy's morning face and a blunt-scissors "Tintin" hairstyle, would have been happy to be watched. "Nothing secret," he said as they went out. "Just me telling him where and how I want the ball. Later we'll up the pace a bit and by Saturday we'll be gelled, you see."

Of course, the lion's most warming chestnut remains the day Barry John first met Gareth Edwards at Johnstown. They were first paired against New Zealand in 1967 and John remembers: "Gareth phoned me at college and said we had to practice. He had a car so he would come to me at Carmarthen. I said 'I'd be at the Ystrad playing fields. It was a fearful Sunday morning, freezing rain pelting down, and it had been a long Saturday-night party for me."

"Gareth was already there, sippy-sippy, all ready to go in clean tracksuit and newly polished boots. I was dying to go back to bed and felt even more ruffled than my frayed jeans and tatty pinstripes."

"Gareth started throwing passes and I was slithering over in the mud. He was getting furious with me, so I said: 'Heck, Gareth, on Saturday you throw 'em and I'll catch 'em. Let's leave it at that so I can go back to bed.' This irritated him even more, and he snapped: 'Don't worry about my passes, boy. I'll get them to you from anywhere. Just make sure you can catch 'em.' Then he grinned. They, you're as cocky and big-headed as I am — and we both laughed fit to burst."

The greatest toreadors had begun their walks.

There had been just as touching an introduction not far away 33 years earlier.

when two other half-back immortals first met three days before Wales played New Zealand in 1935. Haydn Tanner, a month off his 19th birthday, was still at Gowerton county school. Cliff Jones, son of a wealthy Forth greenprover, was up at Cambridge and his father's chauffeur drove him to Swansea to meet his new scrum-half.

Under the colonnade of the St Helen's stand, Tanner threw out the first batch of his celebrated stream of passes to Jones. Then they broke for a snack, cocktails from Tanner and a bunch of rare bananas from Jones. And then, as the classic Fields of Praise notes, they continued "familiarising themselves with each other's play, and as Jones gazed into Tanner's pass he could only wonder at the purring, apparently effortless grace of it; it was like sitting in his father's Rolls-Royce."

For utter sporting romance of the scrum-half saying "Hi" to the fly for the first time, surely none can match that of Chico Hopkins 26 February ago at Twickenham. Wales were up against it, losing 13-3 with 26 minutes left. Edwards sadly lost a hamstring — and on to partner John for the first time in any match bounced Maesteg's cunning, chunky Chico. "Leave it to me, Barry bach," he said.

It was to be Hopkins's only cap, but in those 26 minutes he managed more than some men had with 40 to their name. First, as promised, he fed John for a try; then he bamboozled England's blind-side and bullock over himself; then his scoop-and-switch made a try for JPR; and finally he popped a ball to John for a crowning 40-yard drop. England 13, Wales 17.

"Oh, by the way, Barry," said Hopkins at the final whistle, "when I came on I forgot to say good afternoon."

MIND you, the ripest scrum-half's introduction of himself to his new fly must remain Vic Marriott's to Joe McPartlin in the Middlesex Sevens final long ago. The sevens team was for a forward to play sevens at scrum-half, and Harlequins duly chose Marriott, England's barnstorming pack-leader, to partner McPartlin, Scotland's gregarious fly.

Leopards and spots and all that, but the partnership was not a happy one, as the Scot explained: "I didn't too much mind every pass all along the ground, nor even having to fall on every ball he gave me, but what was most worrying was that every time I'd go down it was always Marriott who was first to charge up and kick me in the back."

Year ban for cocaine footballer



John Duncan

Stanislaus... faces dismissal

THE Leyton Orient defender Roger Stanislaus yesterday became the first English soccer player to be banned for drug-taking. An FA disciplinary committee found him guilty of taking cocaine on a match-day and suspended him for a year.

The former Arsenal, Brentford and Bury player now faces dismissal from his club, when on Tuesday morning will discuss the matter at a board meeting headed by Leyton Orient's chairman, the snooker and boxing impresario Barry Hearn.

"I'm very disappointed; I am opposed, as the club is, to

any kind of drug abuse," said Hearn after the FA hearing at Lancaster Gate.

"The matter had to be dealt with and the inquiry was conducted in a proper manner. I think they've reached the decision fairly, and we have to live by their rules." An appeal is unlikely.

The 27-year-old Stanislaus admitted having taken an illegal substance, but he said it was at a family funeral on the Thursday evening before the game against Barnet on Saturday November 25. Dr David Cowan, head of the King's College drug testing laboratory in London, disputed this.

He testified that to produce the results obtained on the Saturday, Stanislaus "would have had to have taken a le-

thal dose on Thursday of more than a kilogram of cocaine". A lethal dose can be as little as 25 grams.

Stanislaus was judged to have taken "a typical dose of cocaine" between one and six hours before the test. After the match, which kicked off at 3.0pm, he was selected at random for testing at 4.35 and a urine test was conducted at 6.40. The cocaine was therefore taken between 1.0pm and 5.0pm.

Stanislaus is the longest man handed down by the FA since 1955, when three Sheffield Wednesday players were banned for life for match-fixing. Eric Cantona was banned for eight months in 1994 for attacking a Crystal Palace spectator during a match.

The FA panel, which comprised Geoff Thompson (Sheffield FA), Keith Wiseman (Southampton FC) and Reg Burr (Millwall FC), had the power to impose a life ban for misconduct, but are said to have shown leniency after accepting that Stanislaus was not an habitual drug user.

The FA's anti-drug programme is one of the few in sport to target "social" drugs. The FA launched a campaign against cannabis and cocaine two years ago.

"The punishment reflects the severity of the offence," said Brendan Batson of the Professional Footballers' Association. "This is a clear message to say that if you are caught in these circumstances you'll be

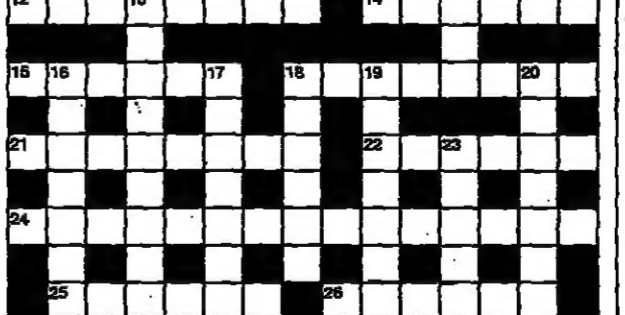
dealt with very harshly. It's like to say that this isn't the tip of an iceberg, but it would be naive of anyone to suggest that the drugs culture in society doesn't touch football."

Last year the FA drugs programme conducted 272 tests and found 12 positives: eight cannabis, two cold cures and two amphetamines.

Lifter took ecstasy, Page 15

Guardian Crossword No 20,565

Set by Pasquale



- Across**
- 1 Design appropriate to a leavenger (6)
 - 4 Dress reduced to half length and put in wardrobe (8)
 - 9 Be good enough to start a back-relieving session? (4,2,2,6)
 - 10 Ferryman offers tea to boy (6)
 - 11 I may get peculiarly nervous about a collected item (8)
 - 12 Church name surrounded by emblem, one of another religion (8)
 - 14 Banished old flame I took in hand (8)
 - 15 Temporary presence (6)
 - 18 Amount of publicity makes an old-fashioned fellow fulminate (8)
 - 21 Selective for third-century Roman emperor (8)
 - 22 Fresh meat obtainable in London borough (6)
- Down**
- 24 Easy financial gain when ancient pearls are sold? (5,3,3,4)
 - 25 Rubbish outside animal's home might bring one (8)
 - 26 Attendant gives rogue a single item to throw at the gaming table (6)
 - 1 One lurking as guerrilla fighter in waste land (7)
 - 2 Plain female meeting one with regular? (7)
 - 3 Devil gets the dean to trespass (7)
 - 5 The heartlessly cruel sinner in sermon (7)
 - 6 More impressive workshop led by good fellow (8)
 - 7 Tangible discretion with priest turning up (7)
 - 8 County clique following party on river (8)
 - 13 Prodigal son? Might keep booze in piece of pottery (8)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,564

Solution tomorrow

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Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 2. Have you got the time?

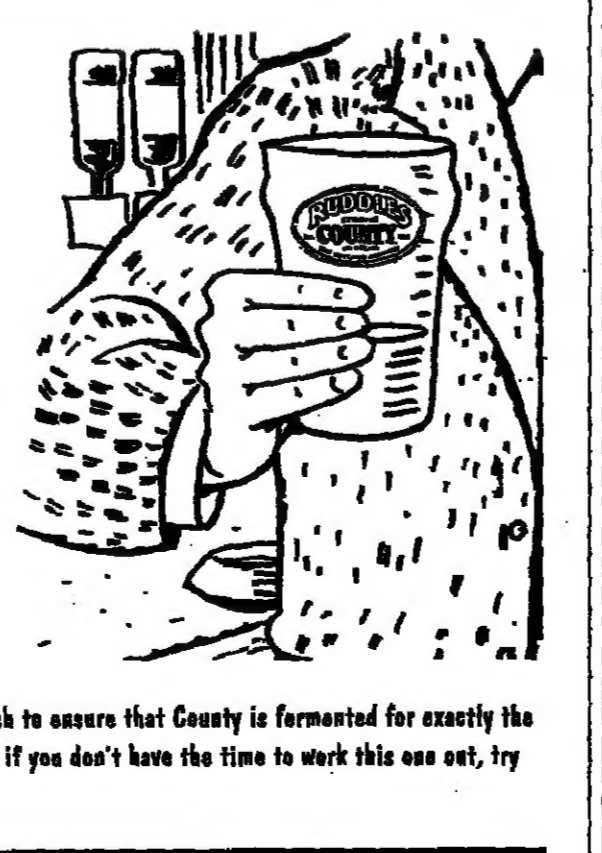
Eric and his friend Edith confessed a stranger the other day, while enjoying a few pints of Ruddles County at their local pub.

During lunch they were approached by a shifty-looking spiv. He opened up his coat to reveal a selection of watches at bargain prices. To encourage the dubious onlookers he carefully removed the outer casing of his favourite watch, so that Eric and Edith could admire the intricacy of its workings. "I bet you've never seen such a complex mechanism," he enthused as Eric and Edith quaffed their flavoursome pints of Ruddles.



Edith, irritated at having a quiet drink spoilt, quipped, "That's where you're wrong. I have a chronometer with so many components, it would take an age to count them all." To which Eric added, "And I own one which has no moving parts whatsoever." Having concluded that there was nothing special about his watch, they sent the puzzled stranger on his way.

To the head brewer at Ruddles, who is forever checking his watch to ensure that County is fermented for exactly the right length of time, the answer to this riddle was obvious. But if you don't have the time to work this one out, try moving this paper to 6.30 precisely.



Solution: Edith owns an hourglass and Eric owns a sundial.